MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

19 JANUARY 1982

Lebanon

SAM's Fired -- Beirut radio reported that Syrian batteries fired two SAM's at two Israeli planes overflying the Al-Biqa' Valley at high altitude on the morning of 19 January. The radio said the SAM's exploded in the air. An AFP report said the SAM-6 missiles were fired from an emplacement near Kafr Zabad, just north of the Beirut-Damascus highway.

Assassination of Attache -- Monte Carlo radio reported that an unknown Beirut organization calling itself the Armed Lebanese Revolutionary Groups claimed responsibility for the assassination in Paris of Lt Col Charles Ray, U.S. deputy military attache.

Egypt

Sharon-'Ali Talks -- Jerusalem radio reported that at Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon's suggestion Egypt agreed to allow Israel to evacuate equipment from the Yamit District after the withdrawal from Sinai is concluded.

MENA reported that Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali told newsmen after the second session of the Supreme Joint Israeli-Egyptian Committee that "there is agreement on everything." Jerusalem radio reported that subcommittees were set up to conclude the border demarcation in the Rafah and Elat areas, and that the parties agreed that Israel would soon open consulates in Alexandria and Ofira, and Egypt in Elat and Haifa. The radio also said 'Ali promised that normalization will be given "renewed momentum" in the future.

IDF radio reported that Israel's demand that a permanent position of the Sinai Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) be established on the island of Tiran did not meet with Egyptian opposition. In remarks carried by the radio, Sharon said he was told in his talks with 'Ali that Egypt is not opposed to having a permanent MFO position on Tiran. Cairo radio, however, did not refer to stationing MFO units on Tiran. Citing AL-AHRAM, it reported that it was decided at the negotiations to raise the Egyptian flag and station Egyptian police forces on Tiran and Sanafir.

According to the radio, AL-AHRAM also wrote that the two sides agreed that the international border will follow the demarcation line of 1906. It was decided that Sharm ash-Shaykh would be considered a tourist port, that those entering would obtain Egyptian visas and that Egyptian customs and border regulations would apply.

MENA reported that Egypt and Israel signed an agreement whereby Egypt will purchase some installations in southern Sinai which it will operate upon the return of that part of the peninsula to Egyptian sovereignty.

According to MENA, Sharon stated after the joint committee's second session that the atmosphere prevailing at the talks confirms that "we both feel that we are in a state of real peace."

Press on Withdrawal, Autonomy, U.S. Role -- Cairo radio reported that an AL-JUMHURIYAH editorial said Israel's complete withdrawal from Sinai is considered a political and legal precedent to which "the Tel Aviv government" must be committed in any negotiations on the future of the remaining occupied Arab territories. According to the radio, the paper concluded that Israel can no longer rely on any historical or security "pretexts or arguments" to justify nonwithdrawal.

MENA reported an AL-AHRAM commentary which emphasized that "putting the final touches" on the Sinai withdrawal will make it possible to devote all efforts to the subject of autonomy.

An AL-JUMHURIYAH commentary cited by MENA demanded that the United States play a more effective role in the autonomy discussions and pressure the Israelis to induce them to recognize Palestinian "legitimate rights." The paper asked the United States to content itself with defending Israel within its pre-1967 borders and to stop defending Israel's "ambitions" in the Arab territories.

Israel

Begin on MFO -- Jerusalem radio reported that Prime Minister Menahem Begin has found that certain phrases in the letters sent by the European countries on their agreement to participate in the Sinai MFO could be ambiguous, and he has asked them for clarifications before Israel approves their participation.

Shamir: Egypt Changes Position -- Jerusalem radio reported that Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee that the Egyptians have "changed their wording" on the autonomy question by now calling for an agreement acceptable to Palestinians. Shamir said this change is unacceptable to both Israel and the United States. According to IDF radio, he described the new Egyptian position as a change for the worse. In similar vein, MK Moshe Arens criticized President Husni Mubarak's stance on autonomy and expressed fears that Israeli-Egyptian relations will not continue positively after the Sinai withdrawal, Jerusalem radio reported. Meanwhile, HA'ARETZ asserted that the Egyptian press accorded Defense Minister Sharon an "unprecedentedly offensive welcome" when he arrived in Cairo for a meeting of the joint supreme committee.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi in Algeria -- Tripoli radio reported that Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi arrived in Algiers where he met President Chadli Bendjedid and other Algerian officials. The radio noted that Al-Qadhdhafi told journalists at the airport that Arab revolutionaries will take "a first step followed by other steps" against those Arab forces linked with the camp "hostile to the Arab nation." The Libyan leader also urged Syria to establish "strategic cooperation" with the Soviet Union. According to Algiers radio, Al-Qadhdhafi began political talks with Bendjedid in the evening.

Boycott Call -- In a statement carried by JANA, the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress called for an Arab boycott of U.S. products, transportation and banks. The statement also expressed support for the people's "uprising" in Sudan and urged the acceleration of Libyan-Syrian unity.

Sudan

SUNA reported that President Ja'far Numayri told a meeting of Sudanese political leaders to discuss his economic program and make a suitable decision on it. Asserting that he will not rescind his economic measures and that sugar prices will rise in the next 18 months, Numayri blamed communists and Ba'thists for the recent riots and demonstrations and for attempting to incite the "man in the street" to topple the regime.

Iran

Citing KEYHAN, AFP reported that armed motorcyclists shot and killed an assistant public prosecutor in Bandar-e 'Abbas. The clandestine Free Voice of Iran radio reported that gunmen assassinated the Islamic prosecutor of Ahvaz and noted that the Azadi group claimed responsibility for the deed. Citing ETTELA'AT, AFP reported the execution of 21 dissidents in Bojnurd and Tabriz on 13 and 14 January.

Afghanistan

Tehran radio's Arabic service reported that in a surprise attack against joint Afghan-Soviet forces in Zabol, Muslim mujahidin captured 60 and killed 3 soldiers. Citing sources in Islamabad, another report by the same radio said that during battles in Parvan Province on 11 January, the mujahidin captured a food depot and destroyed 6 tanks and 25 vehicles belonging to the Afghan Government and Soviet forces.

The Middle East and South Asia Review that follows immediately below, compiled on 14 January, was inadvertently omitted from the 15 January DAILY REPORT.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

14 JANUARY 1982

Haig Tour

MENA reported that after his 13 January meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig, Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak said there is "nothing new" in the autonomy talks and that Haig came to the area to give momentum to the peace process. Mubarak declared that the context of the talks will be expanded only after a declaration of principles on the autonomy is reached, and he added that the Camp David agreements do not specify any time limit for the talks. When asked whether European parties would join the talks, Mubarak replied that the problem is Arab, not European.

MEAN reported that after a discussion, Prime Minister Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din said Haig reaffirmed the "inevitability" of the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai on schedule.

According to MENA, Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali stated that the U.S.-Egyptian talks on 12 and 13 January dealt with issues related to full Palestinian autonomy in light of the progress made by the technical working committees since October. He added that one idea now being considered is to convene in Washington an Egyptian-Israeli-U.S. meeting at the ministerial level. 'Ali also said that among the moves under consideration, especially by the Egyptian side, is encouraging the Palestinians and by the Egyptian side, is encouraging the Palestinians and other states to join the peace process. According to another MENA report, 'Ali told newsmen that the parties are acting to draw views closer together and to limit disagreements and that a proclamation of principles is the "ultimate goal" of the negotiations.

Jerusalem radio later reported Haig's arrival in Israel where he was welcomed by Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and other officials.

Israel

Shamir, Nisim on Autonomy -- Jerusalem radio reported that Foreign Minister Shamir expressed "absolute opposition" in the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee to MK Yitzhaq Rabin's proposal that a "considerable effort" be made to conclude the autonomy negotiations before the end of the Sinai withdrawal and to grant east Jerusalem Arabs the right to vote for the autonomy institutions. Shamir said the Alignment's proposals for concessions are superfluous and harm Israel's image.

ITIM reported a lecture by Justice Minister Moshe Nisim in which he said that Israel has made concessions "to the limits of our ability" on the autonomy issue and that Egypt's continued adherence to its position, which "does not fit" with the Camp David agreements, would be "very regrettable." Nisim also said Israel would like the like the autonomy to be implemented before April 1982, but would be "satisfied" if it could obtain at least a document of understanding about principles by April. The minister said Egypt is mistaken if it thinks that delaying the negotiations until after April will enable it to put pressure on Israel and bring it to its knees. He promised that the Israeli government will stand firm against pressure on issues vital to the country's security and existence.

European MFO Participation -- Jerusalem radio reported that the ambassadors of the four European countries that have volunteered to participate in the Sinai Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) delivered letters to the Foreign Ministry presenting their governments' positions on the terms of their participation.

According to the Jerusalem POST, the letters, while not identical, all state the four countries' acceptance of the premise that participation must be on the basis of the Israeli-Egyptian agreements under which the MFO was set up. The POST said Israel is likely to accept the letters as resolving the dispute over European participation in the force.

Secret Agreement With Egypt -- Citing a "highly placed" source, the Jerusalem POST reported that Egypt and Israel secretly agreed "some time ago" that Israel may dismantle and remove equipment from the Rafah area after its final withdrawal from the Sinai on 26 April.

PLO

Comment on Haig Tour -- The clandestine Voice of Palestine radio broadcast a commentary in which it asserted that Haig's tour is an attempt to keep the situation between Egypt and Israel under U.S. control and avert any "surprises." Any formula which Haig may be able to reach for Egyptian-Israeli agreement on autonomy would remain "mere ink on paper" since it would be designed to solve the Sinai issue and not the Palestinian problem. Haig is seeking to pave the way for a strategic "unanimity" in the region under U.S. supervision, and the autonomy issue is used by the americans as "mere window dressing," the radio concluded.

Contacts With Egypt -- Citing a statement to AL-MUSAWWAR magazine by a Palestinian source, MENA reported that several Fatah leaders are expected to visit Cairo in the next few weeks to open a dialogue with Egyptian leaders.

Jordan

An Interior Ministry statement broadcast by Amman television announced that a bomb exploded in an Amman grocery store on 11 January, wounding six people, including a Palestinian resident of Jordan who was attempting to plant the bomb. The statement accused the third secretary of the Syrian Embassy in Amman of providing the explosive and of assigning two agents to plant bombs in grocery stores that sell alcoholic beverages in order to implicate "Muslim factions." According to the statement, the Syrian diplomat fled Jordan after the incident. The statement denounced the "criminal act" and asserted that it shows that the Syrian Government is trying to disrupt Arab efforts to achieve solidarity.

Syria

Citing the Lebanese newspaper ASH-SHARQ, AFP reported that Syria is trying to obtain sophisticated weaponry from the Soviet Union in order to achieve a strategic balance with Israel. ASH-SHARQ said Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam's recent Gulf tour is expected to "contribute greatly to ensuring Soviet support."

Libya

SUNA reported that Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi was wounded in the jaw when Brig Gen Khalifah Khadir attempted to assassinate him on 20 December in Tubruq. According to SUNA, Brig Gen Abu Bakr Yunis was also wounded and Al-Qadhdhafi's guards killed Khadir. It said some 640 people were arrested following the attempted assassination. Monitored Libyan sources have not been observed to report or comment on the alleged assassination attempt.

Sudan

According to Damascus radio, the chairman of the higher executive council of southern Sudan was shot and killed on 13 January by opposition elements because of the large-scale arrest campaign he had carried out there. Monitored Sudanese sources have not been observed to report on the alleged assassination.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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BAHRAIN

ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARY GENERAL ARRIVES 15 JAN

GF151327 Manama Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 15 Jan 82

[Text] Chedli Klibi, Arab League secretary general, arrived in Bahrain from Jordan at 1230 today on a 2-day visit to Bahrain as part of his current tour of Arab countries. He was received at the airport by Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah, minister of interior; 'Ali Ibrahim al-Mahrus, head of the Foreign Ministry's Political Department; and Nabil Ibrahim Qambar, chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry.

In a statement to WAKH on arrival, Chedli Klibi said the purpose of his visit to Bahrain is to express on his own behalf and on behalf of the Arab League Secretariat solidarity with the Bahraini people and to express to them the full support of their brothers in the Arab homeland in the face of the recently uncovered sabotage plot aimed at Bahrain's security and independence. Klibi said he has come to assure the Bahraini leadership and people that the Arab countries view Bahrain as an indivisible part of the Arab homeland and believe that solidarity with and support for Bahrain is among the foremost duties of the Arab nation. He said he will hold talks with the amir and Bahraini officials on topics connected with joint Arab action to tackle the existing problems resulting from the Israeli decision to annex the Golan Heights. Efforts should be intensified to confront this decision and to confront the Arab-Israeli conflict in general, he said.

Klibi said he believes the Arab situation has begun to develop positively which allows us to think of resuming the temporarily suspended Fes summit and achieving positive results.

In conclusion, the Arab League secretary general said that all the countries he visited -- Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan -- support the resumption of the Fes summit and are firmly determined that the summit be resumed on solid and sound bases that will make it possible to achieve the desired results -- to further Arab solidarity.

Meets Amir, Makes Statement

GF161323 Manama Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 16 Jan 82

[Text] His highness the amir, Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, received at Government House this morning Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, who is currently visiting Bahrain as part of his tour of Arab countries. Present at the reception were His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the prime minister; Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah, the minister of interior and acting foreign minister; and 'Ali Ibrahim al-Mahrus, head of the Foreign Ministry Political Department.

In a statement to WAKH following his meeting with the amir, Chedli Klibi said he was honored by meeting the amir and added that they discussed all the issues the Arab nation is facing and the current situation. He said the amir emphasized the need to support and strengthen Arab solidarity in these critical circumstances so as to tackle the existing differences to confront all kinds of plots with unity, particularly since Bahrain has uncovered a sabotage plot.

Chedli Klibi said he reiterated to the amir, in the name of all Arab states, their solidarity and support and assured him of their stand alongside the State of Bahrain in these circumstances. In his statement, the Arab League secretary general expressed Arab League solidarity with Bahrain and its strong condemnation of the dirty plot, which was undoubtedly hatched by Iran.

He emphasized the need to stand firmly beside Bahrain against any external force that aims to undermine the security of any of the Gulf states or the security of the entire region, because Gulf security is the security of the Arab nation.

Klibi expressed his belief that it is the duty of all Arab states to stand in support of Bahrain rather than to just express solidarity with it. Arab states must stand alongside Bahrain and do what is necessary to express full support for their Bahraini brothers.

Klibi concluded his statement by saying that his visit to Bahrain was to assure the Bahraini leadership and people, in the name of the Arab League, of this support.

Comments on U.S. Relations

GF171120 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 17 Jan 81 p 1

[Excerpt] Israel is about to launch a military offensive against the Arabs, it was claimed yesterday.

The attack will take place with the support of the United States, said Chedli Klibi, Arab League secretary-general.

Klibi, who held talks in Manama yesterday with HH the amir, Shaykh 'Isa ibn Sulman Al Khalifa, also said that US-ARAB relations were in danger.

He blamed this on Washington's unqualified support for Israeli policy.

And he said the situation had not been helped by the Americans' decision to thwart effective sanctions against Israel for its annexation of the Golan Heights.

Klibi added: "We still hope, however, that amicable relations will grow and develop between the Arab and American peoples."

Talks With Premier, Departs

GF161924 Manama Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Jan 82

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the Bahraini prime minister, received today Chedli Klibi, the Arab League secretary general. During the meeting, current Arab and international developments were reviewed.

The Arab League secretary general left the country this evening for Doha following a 2-day visit to Bahrain. He was seen off at the airport by Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah, the interior minister and acting foreign minister; 'Ali al-Mahrus, director of the Political Department at the Foreign Ministry; and Nabil Gambar, director of protocol at the Foreign Ministry.

KUWAIT

U.S. SENATOR PERCEY ARRIVES; RECEIVED BY AMIR

LD181302 Kuwait KUNA in English 1218 GMT 18 Jan 82

[Text] Kuwait, 18 Jan (KUNA) -- The amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Monday received Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee at the U.S. Senate Charles Percy and discussed bilateral relations and developments in the region.

The meeting was attended by U.S. Ambassador to Kuwait Francois Dickman.

Percy arrived here Sunday on a two-day visit to the country, on the 12th leg of his current Mideast tour, during which he is expected to meet with senior Kuwaiti officials.

The American senator is also scheduled to hold an open seminar at 5:30 p.m. today at the premises of the Kuwaiti Graduate Society on American Policies in the Middle East.

Newspaper Comment on Visit

GF181228 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0844 GMT 18 Jan 82

[Text] Kuwait, 18 Jan (WAKH) -- Two Kuwaiti newspapers today question the purpose of the visit to the Middle East by the Chairman of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee. The newspaper AL-ANBA' says in its editorial today: The only thing Arabs are concerned with is Palestine. Our only song is Palestine. What you have heard is not important. What is important to us is whether you have the courage to report what you have heard." The paper adds: "The problem is not whether the U.S. media are with us or against us or whether the Zionist lobby is stronger or weaker. The important thing is that for the past 40 years the Arab world has been sleeping with Palestine, waking up with Palestine, progressing with Palestine and regressing with Palestine."

KUWAIT TIMES describes Percy's tour as ambitious. It says: "The United States has been ignoring Arab national demands since Harry Truman was president in 1945." The paper concludes that the Arabs are convinced there is no hope that the United States will change its stand of supporting Israel. So far, the U.S. administration has refused to adopt a strategic stand against the Zionist entity. Thus, the Arabs have begun to resolve their differences in order to face this situation.

RADIO CRITICIZES U.S. POSITION ON ISRAEL

LD131548 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 12 Jan 82

[From the "Our World Today" program]

[Text] Let us begin on the eve of U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig's arrival in occupied Jerusalem. Israel has revealed that U.S. President Ronald Reagan has rebuilt the bridges of the U.S.-Israeli alliance which were said to have been affected by the Begin government's decision to annex the occupied Syrian Golan Heights. Last night, the enemy radio said the U.S. President reaffirmed in a message sent to Begin the United States' commitment to Israel's security in a firm and irrevocable manner. The message, which was conveyed to Begin by U.S. Ambassador to Israel Samuel Lewis the day before yesterday, said the United States and Israel have left behind what was described as differences in opinion which were recently evident.

The message, which did not contain any reference to Israel's decision to annex the occupied Syrian Golan Heights, said the United States still regards the Camp David accords as the basis for policy Middle East its entire. The U.S. ambassador to Israel said Haig will discuss peace in the Middle East and the Palestinian autonomy negotiations with senior Israeli officials. He added that Reagan's message contained these two issues, but he declined to give any details. What is the meaning of the message? What is its purpose?

The message means that everything said about Israel making the decision to annex the Golan without prior agreement with the United States does not convince anyone. The message means that the theatrical play about the differences, acted out by Reagan and Begin following the U.S. decision to suspend the implementation of the strategic cooperation agreement in retaliation for the annexation of the Golan, was to absorb the wrath of the Arab peoples. This is because the message reaffirms, beyond any shadow of a doubt, that the United States will protect Israel against any military or diplomatic attempt to compel it to retreat from its annexation decision. Otherwise, what does Reagan's undertaking that the United States is firmly and irrevocably committed to Israel's security mean?

Israel, whose existence Reagan undertook to guarantee, now consists of Jerusalem and the Golan Heights, in addition to Israel itself. This means he is guaranteeing Israel's new borders by continuing to supply it with all means of military and economic power. This will allow it not only to stand against any Arab attempt to retrieve the usurped territories, but also the expand further into the Arab homeland. What is the meaning of the U.S. stance at the UN Security Council and the U.S. insistence on vetoing any draft resolution containing the imposition of sanctions on Israel to compel it to abandon its annexation decision?

Despite the fact that Syrian Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, at the end of a tour of the Gulf countries, warned last night that U.S.-Arab relations will suffer grave consequences if the United States votes against international sanction on Israel, a senior U.S. official declared that the United States will not use its aid as means of pressuring Israel.

In fact, this official -- Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee Subcommittee on Defense Joseph Addabbo -- pointed out that U.S. aid to Israel for this year will reach more than $2.2 billion. He added, following a meeting yesterday with the enemy prime minister, that he has begun to understand the reasons behind the decision to annex the Golan. This means the yardstick of international justice is now in favor of the law of brute force and the law of the jungle, and not the might of right and its legitimacy.

Will Israel's decision to annex the Golan serve as the latest proof that any diplomatic effort to gain the sympathy of those states which influence the issues of international peace is a waste of time unless this effort is supported by force which protects right?

QATAR

ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARY ARRIVES FROM BAHRAIN

GF161927 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1858 GMT 16 Jan 82

[Text] Doha, 16 Jan (WAKH) -- Chedli Klibi, Arab League secretary general, arrived in Doha today on an official visit to Qatar that will last severl days as part of his current tour of area countries.

In a statement on arrival Klibi said that his visit is within the framework of the consultations he began in the wake of the suspension of the Arab summit in Fes. Klibi declared: I am continuing my consultations in the Gulf countries to sound out views, particularly on recent developments in the region.

Answering a question on whether the Arab situation has developed to an extent that would permit the resumption of a successful Fes summit, Klibi said: The Arab situation is constantly and positively developing.

In all the countries I have visited so far I have sensed a clear determination to contribute to the efforts to resume the Arab summit.

The Arab League secretary general ended his visit to Bahrain earlier today.

Received by Amir

GF171021 Doha QNA in Arabic 0900 GMT 17 Jan 82

[Text] Doha, 17 Jan (QNA) -- Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani received Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi this morning. Klibi arrived in Doha yesterday evening.

QNA has learned that Mr Klibi and the amir reviewed a number of current Arab issues and discussed means to bolster joint Arab action in order to confront the threats and challenges to the Arab nation. They also discussed the possibility of resuming the adjourned Fes summit in view of the improvement and progress achieved in the Arab position.

QNA also learned that the Arab League secretary general briefed the amir on the results of his tour of a number of Arab capitals. According to the agency, the amir assured Mr Klibi of his full support for any party that works for Arab unity and the revival of Arab solidarity.

Views Current Arab Issues

GF170853 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0540 GMT 17 Jan 82

[Text] Doha, 16 Jan (WAKH) -- Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi has affirmed that the purpose of his current tour of Arab states is to explore opinions on the resumption of the Fes conference in addition to other issues, the foremost of which are support for Bahrain since the discovery of the sabotage conspiracy, and the unity of the Arab stance on the Golan issue in the United Nations.

In a statement to Qatar radio this evening, Mr Klibi asked the Arab states to prepare well for the Arab summit before its meetings are resumed in Fes. He said that his contacts with the Arab states so far indicate they are resolved not to resume the summit except on correct foundations so that what happened in Fes in November is not repeated. He called for preparation of a joint Arab strategy which could become the ground on which all Arab states can stand in exercising their responsibilities toward the Arab-Israeli conflict. He added that this strategy can be reached through Arab consultations, especially when the Fes summit is resumed.

The Arab League secretary affirmed that the Fes summit agenda has remained unchanged; not a single member state has objected to it and no other topics have been added to it yet. He noted the possibility of adding new issues to the agenda if any state wishes to do so. He stressed that the Saudi peace plan is still at the top of the conference agenda.

Asked about the possibility of Egypt's return to the Arab ranks, he said: Egypt's return is our dearest wish. He said this has now become possible in view of the initiatives made by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on the domestic and foreign levels. Klibi added that these initiatives do indeed stem from the president's wisdom and his great consciousness of his national and patriotic responsibilities. He also said that the initiatives prepare for positive developments in the Egyptian arena that will enable Egypt to regain its pioneering position in Arab ranks.

Concerning the Iraq-Iran war, Mr Klibi disclosed that the Arab League has been contacting the non-Arab states that may be able to mediate to stop this war and alleviate the atmosphere in the region. He explained that the league has been making these efforts for some time but has not announced them in the hope that the results desired will be achieved. However, he stressed that the Arab League cannot mediate directly between Iraq and Iran because one of the two parties is not Arab.

Further Remarks

GF171434 Doha QNA in Arabic 1126 GMT 17 Jan 82

[Excerpts] Doha, 17 Jan (QNA) -- Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi has said all Arab countries have agreed to resume the postponed Fes summit. However, he emphasized the need to create a suitable atmosphere before resuming this summit in order to have a better chance to achieve positive results and to closely study the proposed projects, particularly concerning the strategy in the conflict with the Israeli enemy and Saudi Arabia's peace plan.

Mr Klibi has not specified the date for the resumption of the summit. Furthermore, he denied that there is any relationship between the resumption of the summit and Israel's withdrawal from Sinai next April. He explained that the summit works on fateful issues, the discussion of which is not affected by Egypt's presence or absence, because the conflict with the enemy is already there.

In a statement to the Qatari newspaper AR-RAYAH published today, Mr Chedli Klibi said his current Arab tour will further clarify the Arab stand. The tour has already achieved a certain progress. He pointed out that discussion with the leaders of the countries he is visiting involves the various developments in the current Arab situation including the "Fes summit," the annexation of the Golan and the Security Council's debate.

He indicated that despite its significant absence at the Fes summit, Syria is now working to create a new atmosphere characterized by feelings of solidarity.

Commenting on the Security Council's debate on Israel's annexation of the Golan, the Arab League secretary general said: We all bitterly regret the U.S. stand because it will widen the gap between the United States and the Arab nation.

He regreted the contradiction of the U.S. stand on this issue and said: We were surprised because the United States condemned the annexation of the Golan and at the same time objected to the imposition of sanctions. We believe that this is a contradictory position. How can the aggressor be repelled unless he is punished?

Asked if he believes the Zionist enemy will wait until the Arabs study a military retaliation before carrying out a new aggression, Chedli Klibi did not rule out the possibility that a new Israeli aggression will take place, noting that the enemy is currently seeking to absolve itself of its commitments and is trying to create justifications to force the new Egyptian president into saying "something" which Israel will consider contravening the existing measures in order to renege on its pledge to withdraw from Sinai.

Mr Klibi believes that Israel will not completely withdraw from Sinai. He said Israel's philosophy is against this especially since Begin wants to have something to bargain with, and since he is trying to find a means to absolve Israel of its responsibility of withdrawing from Sinai.

On the recent visit that U. S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig made to Egypt and Israel to discuss the resumption of the talks on the so-called Palestinian autonomy, he said: It does not befit a superpower like the United States to be duped by such trickery. The United States should recognize the need to create an independent Palestinian state, in which the legitimate owners of the land will have the right to live and rule.

Mr Klibi affirmed that the French stand on the Middle East crisis has become clearer than ever. He indicated that he explained to French President Francios Mitterrand during their recent meeting in Paris that France's participation should be more than an announcement of principles.

In this regard, Mr. Klibi said the French stand, which is based on the so-called "Israeli security" and Palestinian rights, needs to be reviewed, because Israel is secure and it is its neighboring countries that need security. He affirmed the need for all efforts to concentrate on creating the Palestinian state.

Departs for Kuwait

GF171027 Doha QNA in Arabic 0905 GMT 17 Jan 82

[Text] Doha, 17 Jan (QNA) -- Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi left Doha for Kuwait this morning following his 1-day visit to Qatar as part of a tour of a number of Arab states. Mr Klibi was seen off at Doha International Airport by Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs.

Mr Klibi said his visit to Qatar was successful and fruitful. He added that on all topics discussed with the Qatari amir, he found him determined to reinforce joint Arab action and help in making it proceed in the direction desired by the Arab nation.

SAUDI ARABIA

YAMANI INTERVIEWED ON SAUDI, OPEC OIL POLICIES

PM131331 London AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 11 Jan 82 pp 36, 37

[Rabah Munir Shaykh al-Ard interview with Saudi Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Affairs Shaykh Ahman Zaki Yamani -- date, place not given]

[Excerpts] AD-DUSTUR: It was hoped that the recent OPEC oil ministers conference would discuss the report of the committee on long-term pioneering policy. How much has the committee achieved so far?

Yamani: We have achieved some progress concerning world demand, oil substitutes and the sisterly developing countries. We might be able to make further progress in the first quarter of this year, but I do not expect anything specific before the end of the year.

AD-DUSTUR: Is there a larger consensus today on shaping the basic formula of the pioneering policy?

Yamani: Libya, Iran and Nigeria have different views from the rest of the member states, but we are trying to be objective and we have reasons to be optimistic.

AD-DUSTUR: Generally one of the most important causes of differences is the level of Saudi production. It is the basic factor in deciding the stands of others. What is the present and future level of Saudi production?

Yamani: The production "ceiling," which is the maximum, is 8.5 million barrels per day. The strength of the market might lead to a reduction in our production, and conditions might arise in which we have to review the "ceiling." However, I do not expect this to happen any time this year because the Western consumers are bound to increase their oil stockpiles.

AD-DUSTUR: You said at OPEC's recent extraordinary meeting in Geneva that there will be a new rule to govern the rise and fall of OPEC oil prices. Has this new rule been endorsed and incorporated in OPEC's short-term policy?

Yamani: Yes, instead of increasing the prices as usual, we are now reducing them. But the reduction is less for light oil prices than it is for heavy oil. If fuel oil prices remain low, crude oil prices will drop below their present level. The drop today is large.

AD-DUSTUR: How much?

Yamani: 50 to 70 cents.

AD-DUSTUR: Of course, the price of index (light) oil will remain at its level of $34 per barrel. But what has changed is some differences in the prices of certain types of oil. When will this change come into effect?

Yamani: Beginning this January. The new difference between heavy and light is $3. We must note here that this was the situation before OPEC increased its prices in October last year from $32 to $34.

DEFENSE MINISTER COMMENTS ON ARMS PURCHASES

LD181258 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Jan 82

[Excerpt] His Royal Highness Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of defense and aviation, has affirmed that the kingdom is proceeding with the policy of diversification of arms sources and of strengthening its military capabilities to the level that will enable it to protect its territories and face all challenges. His highness praised the ability of the Saudi pilots and technicians in the armed forces in general and in the air force in particular to shoulder their full responsibilities by flying the most advanced aircraft and mastering up-to-date arms technology.

His highness, in an interview published in 'UKAZ today, when asked if the F-15 squadron that has arrived in the kingdom represents all that the kingdom requires from America or all that the kingdom needs in the way of advanced aircraft, said: "We are continuing the policy of diversification of arms sources according to our needs and absorption capacity, to what secures the country's interest and to what provides the highest level of preparedness to defend this homeland and its people."

INFORMATION MINISTER ON EASTERN BLOC RELATIONS

GF160505 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 14 Jan 82 p 1

[Text] Bahrain -- Saudi Arabian Information Minister Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani indicated on Tuesday that communism is not an obstacle to diplomatic ties between the Islamic kingdom and the countries of Eastern Europe.

In a speech to a cultural club in Riyadh, excerpts of which were published by the SAUDI PRESS AGENCY yesterday, Dr 'Abduh Yamani said: The kingdom is not against any side and the establishement of relations with the Eastern camp does not mean belief in their ideology."

But the issue of ties between the Kingdom and the Eastern bloc was a matter for the government to decide, the minister added.

There has been frequent press speculation that Saudi Arabia and the Soviet Union, which had diplomatic relations over 30 years ago, intend to restore links. Stresses in relations between Saudi Arabia and the United States, mainly over Washington's Israeli policies, have prompted such speculation in the past. But the Saudi Government, while publicly appreciative of Moscow's pro-Arab policy, has remained noncommital about resuming relations with Moscow.

Crown Prince Fahd said early this month that his country harbours no hostility toward communist states and the absence of diplomatic relations between Riyadh and these states does not mean that "we are ignoring their weight and values in international society."

Western diplomatic sources in New York have said that Saudi Arabia is actively pursuing contacts with the Soviet Union to win its support to Fahd's Middle East peace plan.

DEPUTY INTERIOR MINISTER VIEWS IRANIAN 'DISEASE'

LD131850 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Jan 82

[Text] Deputy Interior Minister His Royal Highness Prince Ahmad ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, has stated that the subversive Iranian plot against the fraternal state of Bahrain was expected as a result of the general assessment of statements made by Iranian officials on Tehran radio and the previous conduct of Iranian officials. His highness said everything confirmed that Iran intended to carry out subversive activities, to create confusion and problems in the region and to establish subversive organizations instead of practicing cooperation, brotherhood and amity.

In a statement published today by the evening paper AL-JAZIRAH, His Royal Highness Ahmad ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz said the Iranians are suffering from the disease of subversion and the export of problems. He added that a sick person who cannot treat himself is incapable of treating others. He pointed out that nobody imagined things would reach such a level that the Iranians would begin to contemplate toppling a regime in a fraternal state. He expressed hope that Iran will once again take a healthy view of things so that officials will be able to reappraise the situation in order to make Iran an Islamic country. His highness reaffirmed that any subversive action against the Arab Gulf states would be exposed and combated; this disease which has spread in Iranian society will be resisted.

Regarding the draft security agreement between the kingdom and Morocco, his highness the deputy interior minister pointed out that it is still under final discussion. He said that there is strong cooperation between the two countries which aims at the realization of common interests and the exchange of expertise and information to combat crime and maintain security and stability.

AR-RIYAD DENOUNCES HAIG'S MIDDLE EAST TOUR

PM141435 Riyadh AR-RIYAD in Arabic 10 Jan 82 p 16

[Ibrahim Jazzini article: "The General's Visit"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Haig is coming to the region this week on a factfinding mission. As usual, Washington pretends to be unaware of the fact related to Israeli intransigence and piracy, as if the stacks of reports in the secretary's office and in President Reagan's office are not enough to expose the continuous Zionist aggression. It is as if these reports are somewhat ambiguous and Haig is coming to get a clearer idea and ascertain the truth about Israeli expansion at the expense of Arab territory.

It seems that the general will only visit two countries, namely Israel and Egypt. He might go to Jordan and some Gulf states, although all indications are that the Gulf states are not on his itinerary. After all, the Gulf states have nothing more to say, other than what they have been saying all along about the Middle East conflict. The Reagan administration is very well aware of this. This is why there is no need for Haig to do what Kissinger used to do, just to waste time, cool the situation or show defiance.

Haig's visit follows Israel's refusal to rescind its decision to annex the Golan Heights and the serious effects this decision has had on Arab-American relations.

We believe the general cannot ignore such a decision in which his country played the major part. So there is no need for pessimism or wonder. There is also no point in blaming a third party for the collapse of U.S. diplomacy in the region nor, out of courtesy, in counselling self-restraint as is customary whenever the matter concerns a flagrant Israeli usurpation.

The visit comes at a time when the Arab states are resolved to carry out a comprehensive overhaul of their domestic affairs and foreign relations to pave the way for a unified stance against U.S. partiality. It is for this reason that the secretary is urgently paying this visit. This is the first visit against this background of uncertainty in the future of the peace process in the Middle East if the Zionist defiance of Arab feelings continues.

It is believed that the secretary will not return to the U.S. administration with anything that will give more satisfaction or assurance as to its so-called commitment to Israel's security in the region.

The fact that the visit has been restricted to certain places is tantamount to a refusal to face the truth which the United States should have grasped before sending its secretary and embarking on another move which is bound to follow the visit. Haig will return emptyhanded because Washington is addressing the negative aspects of the crisis and is itentionally ignoring, or is always afraid to look at, the truth, not even to a minimum degree. Had it done so it would have spared its foreign policy many setbacks in more than one hotspot in the world.

UAE

SYRIA'S KHADDAM DELIVERS MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT

GF111925 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1902 GMT 11 Jan 82

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 11 Jan (WAKH) -- UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has received a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad dealing with the current Arab situation. The message was delivered by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, to Shaykh Surur ibn Muhammad, the director of the UAE president's office.

The Syrian minister arrived in Abu Dhabi earlier today.

The meeting was attended by Ahmad Khalifah as-Suwaydi, the UAE president's representative; 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Jarawan, UAE Foreign Ministry under secretary; and Muhammad Kabur, the Syrian ambassador to the UAE.

AL-KHALIJ SCORES HAIG'S STATEMENT ON SUDAN

GF140744 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0640 GMT 14 Jan 82

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 14 Jan (WAM) -- AL-KHALIJ has denounced U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig's statement on Sudan and the so-called Palestinian autonomy.

In an editorial today, the newspaper says: "Haig's statement on Sudan is rejected by the Sudanese people, who have the right to direct their own internal affairs. Haig's statement on the expansion of the 'autonomy rule' negotiations is also rejected, not only because the Camp David policy has died, but also because it aims to distort the reputation of some Arab parties, particularly the PLO and Syria."

AL-KHALIJ goes on to say that Haig's statement on the current situation in Sudan and his hope that other parties will join the autonomy rule negotiations are not new and they explain the U.S. policy that claims there is 'a security vacuum' in the Gulf region that should be filled by the Rapid Deployment Force. His statement also represents a United States attempt to isolate 'Gulf Security' from the resolution of the Palestinian issue. His statement is also a continuation of U.S. political and military hegemony in the Middle East region.

The newspaper emphasizes that what is new about Haig's statement is its timing, because it is very clear that when the internal situation in an Arab country becomes tense and when Arab people expose U.S. deception, the United States reveals its terrorist nature, which it always tries to cover up through diplomatic terminology.

In conclusion, AL-KHALIJ calls on Arab countries to carry out individual moves or hold a collective meeting to prevent Haig and others from intefering in Arab internal and national affairs, particularly since the United States has continued to implement its policy on Arab issues on behalf of the Arabs with no tangible reaction from most of them.

AL-BAYAN VIEWS HAIG'S MIDDLE EAST TOUR

GF150820 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0645 15 Jan 82

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 15 Jan (WAM) -- UAE newspapers today emphasize that the only way of regaining Arab rights and all Arab territory is by adopting the same methods that were used to usurp these rights.

Referring to Haig's visit to the region, the Dubayy newspaper AL-BAYAN says the visit will not yield any positive results because of the lack of U.S. pressure [on Israel] on the one hand the the lack of effective pressure on the United States on the other.

The paper holds the Arabs responsible for failing to adopt a well-defined stand and says: "In his talks with Israeli officials, Haig does not take the Arab stand into account because there is no such stand. However, he thinks of making use of Israel and its long arm, which is capable of threatening areas thousands of kilometers inside the Arab homeland in order to support U.S. interests."

AL-BAYAN adds: "If the United States' deliberate disregard for the Arab stand is due to the absence of such a stand in the first place, the reason for this is the present Arab situation."

AL-BAYAN calls for dealing quickly with this situation and for action to resolve Arab differences and lay down solid bases for effective sol darity so it will be possible to adopt a stand and regain the initiative. Thus, the Arab nation will be able not only to exert pressure on the United States and compel it to take the Arab stand into account but also to eliminate the causes of tension and redress the situation in the region in favor of Arab interests.

'ALI, SHARON MEET IN CAIRO FOR TALKS

NC181436 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1325 GMT 18 Jan 82

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jan (MENA) -- The higher Egyptian-Israeli committee, led by Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon, met today to discuss the executive procedures for Israel's withdrawal from Sinai and the return of Egyptian sovereignty over all of Sinai on 25 April.

In a statement to journalists following the 4-hour meeting, 'Ali welcomed Mr Sharon and said: When the joint higher committee meets, we will overcome all the problems that surface on the technical level. I believe tomorrow we will be able to make a statement after we review all the topics under discussion.

Sharon said: We have held good talks. I believe we have made progress, especially in the field of normalization of relations, since the first meeting which was held in Alexandria on 24 August. He added that the subcommittees have solved most of the problems and that the remaining problems will be solved during his current stay in Cairo. Sharon lauded the atmosphere of the talks he is holding in Cairo, saying: This confirms the spirit of peace between us.

The Egyptian delegation to the talks included Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Ambassador Tahir Shash, Director of the Foreign Ministry's Organizations Department Ambassador 'Abd al-Halim Badawi, Ambassador Fawzi al-Abrashi, Ambassador Ra'uf Ghunaym and the head of the Egyptian side on the Egyptian-Israeli military committee, Rear Admiral Muhsin Hamdi. The Israeli side includes Assistant Defense Minister Gen Avraham Tamir, [Foreign Ministry Director General] David Kimche and a number of experts on Egyptian and Middle East affairs.

MENA has learned that a technical committee is expected to hold a meeting today to discuss the question of the city of Rafah and the Egyptian border there so as to ensure the comfort of the inhabitants of that area.

Another technical committee will also meet to discuss the border line in the Taba area. This line is not demarcated and is 600 meters long. It will be demarcated in accordance with the 1906 agreement, which demarcates the international borders of Egypt.

The two sides are expected to resume their meeting under 'Ali and Sharon at 1800 today.

EGYPT, ISRAEL REACH WITHDRAWAL AGREEMENT

NC181931 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT Jan 82

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jan (MENA) -- The joint Egyptian-Israeli higher committee held its second meeting this evening to continue discussing the subjects pertaining to the Israeli withdrawal from the remaining part of the Sinai and the issues pertaining to normalization.

The Egyptian side in this meeting was headed by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and the Israeli side by Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon.

Two technical committeees met before the second meeting. One met to discuss the question of the demarcation of the border in Rafah in a manner that would ensure the comfort of the residents of the area, both Egyptian and Palestinian, and the union of the families there. The second technical committee met to discuss the demarcation of the border near the Tabah area -- an area which resembles a triangle and which is about 600 meters from the end of the borderline from the south.

Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon stated after the second session of the joint Egyptian-Israeli higher committee, which lasted 2 hours, that the discussions taking place between the two sides are dealing with all the subjects.

He said: We hope that tomorrow evening we will reach agreement on all the subjects which we are discussing.

He added: I would like to say that the atmosphere which has been prevailing in the talks confirms that we both feel that we are in a state of real peace.

'Ali said in a statement after the meeting that the two sides have reached solutions to the problems -- which really are no problems.

Asked whether this means that you have found a solution to the Rafah and other issues, he said: Yes, there is agreement on everything.

Asked about the reason for tomorrow's meeting, he said: In order to sign.

The joint Egyptian-Israeli higher committee will hold a meeting at 1800 tomorrow, Tuesday.

AL-AHRAM PREVIEWS SINAI AGREEMENT

NC190730 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0610 GMT 19 Jan 82

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-AHRAM gives attention to the final statement Egypt and Israel will sign this evening on the work of the higher joint committee after agreeing on all pending matters related to Israel's complete withdrawal from Sinai and the islands of Tiran and Sanafir. It has been decided to raise the Egyptian flag and to have Egyptian police forces stationed on Tiran.

The paper says that after Egypt presented the maps, photographs and results of the work of the survey committees, the two sides agreed that the international borders will be those of 1906. As for the question of [Bi'r] Tabah, the committees concerned will continue to study this matter. With regard to the question of Rafah, AL-AHRAM explains that an agreement has been reached on adhering to the international border. Technical committees will be formed to resolve the question of the inhabitants in order to alleviate any harm that might be caused to the families there.

With regard to Sharm ash-Shaykh, AL-AHRAM says that it has been decided to consider it a tourist port, that those entering it should obtain Egyptian visas and that all Egyptian customs and border measures should apply to it.

The paper says that with regard to the landing of private planes from Europe in Sinai, the two sides agreed to abide by international aviation agreements.

PACT ON SINAI INSTALLATION PURCHASES SIGNED

NC182018 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Jan 82

[Text] Egypt and Israel have signed a financial agreement for the purchase of some installations in southern Sinai which Egypt wants to operate upon the return of that part of the Sinai to Egyptian sovereignty in April. The value of these installations is 16 million pounds.

AL-JUMHURIYAH SEEKS U.S. PRESSURE ON ISRAEL

NC182303 Cairo Mena in Arabic 2248 GMT 18 Jan 82

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jan (MENA) -- AL-JUMHURIYAH demands that the U.S. administration play a more effective role in the autonomy discussions and put pressure on the Israelis to induce them to recognize the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

In a commentary in (?Tuesday's edition), the paper says: We are not asking the United States to (?abandon) Israel. However, (?we do demand that) the United States abandon its defense of Israel's ambitions in the (?occupied) territories and content itself with (?defending) Israel within its known pre-1967 borders.

The paper affirms that should Washington adhere to this clear-cut criterion in its relationship with Tel Aviv, then Washington will anger no one -- not the (?American) Jews, not the Arabs and not those Israelis who really seek peace.

Concluding its commentary, the paper says: The United States has for long tried (?total partiality) to the Israeli expansionist viewpoint. As a consequence, the United States has reaped nothing but the animosity of the Arabs and [rest of sentence indistinct].

AL-AHRAM SAYS WITHDRAWAL WILL AID NEXT STEP

NC182247 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2226 GMT 18 Jan 82

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jan (MENA) -- AL-AHRAM affirms that a final withdrawal from Sinai on schedule will set a good example which can be followed in working out a formula for negotiations among the parties to the Middle East issue.

In its relevant comment, the paper explains that this crowning of part one of the Camp David accords will furnish a new affirmation that this formula will succeed in solving the Middle East problems in a way agreeable to the major parties concerned.

In its Tuesday edition, AL-AHRAM adds that success of party one will serve as a complete and factual example of the possibility of achieving the purpose of part two on autonomy through this very same method. The paper says resort will be made to diplomatic qualities, such as patience, wisdom, understanding, impartiality and perspicacity.

In commenting on the entry of the negotiations on the Sinai withdrawal into their final phases, the paper emphasizes that putting the final touches on this withdrawal will then make it possible to dedicate all efforts to the subject of autonomy. The parties concerned will begin to pursue the course already charted with energy and determination to achieve [words indistinct] of achievement and success.

ABU GHAZALAH INTERVIEWED BY MAY MAGAZINE

NC180738 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0635 GMT 18 Jan 82

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jan (MENA) -- Defense and War Production Minister Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah has reaffirmed that Egypt does not and will not grant bases to anybody and that its policy is clear on this.

In an interview with the weekly MAY magazine today, Abu Ghazalah said: We will not participate in any Rapid Deployment Force but we say: If any Arab state needs our aid, we will gladly grant it.

Abu Ghazalah explained that Egypt's policy is based on deterrence, preventing aggression and aiding any Arab state in need of aid. He added: We have no aggressive intentions against anybody. What we look forward to is to reform our state and live in peace.

Abu Ghazalah stressed that Egypt has no concentrations on the Libyan border, that Egypt never had any military concentrations on the Libyan border but that there are only border guards, as any other state guards its borders.

Lt Gen 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah said that he hoped that U.S. military aid to Egypt will be increased, especially because of the military imbalance in the region. He explained that what the United States gives Egypt is still limited and this is what prompted Egypt to conclude the Mirage deal with France.

Abu Ghazalah emphasized that Egypt has its own strategy, that it is rebuilding its armed forces according to a specific plan, and that it wants nothing from anybody other than help in shouldering the economic problems and the armament burden until this stage has passed into building capable armed forces.

The defense minister hoped that Egypt's friends will expedite their aid to shorten the time needed for implementing the armament plan from 10 to 5 years and from 15 to 6 years.

Answering a question on whether Egypt looks forward to the conclusion of a collective strategic agreement [takwin ijma'in istratiji] to confront any external threat, Abu Ghazalah said: What the Arab region needs is integral security, that is, there should be a plan guaranteeing the security of the Arab region.

Abu Ghazalah added: We cannot separate the danger surrounding the Gulf states and the danger surrounding the Red Sea. He also said: The area is one and the same. The Indian Ocean, the Red Sea and, the eastern Mediterranean and their surroundings are considered as one strategic area. This requires that all these states cooperate among themselves.

In conclusion, Abu Ghazalah stressed that it is necessary that the Red Sea should become an Arab lake and that the security for this lake cannot be provided if the Arabs do not possess a naval force and an air force capable of protecting it.

REPORTAGE ON MINISTER GHALI'S YUGOSLAV VISIT

NC150706 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2330 GMT 14 Jan 82

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali will today, Friday, deliver a message from President Husni Mubarak to Sergej Kraigher, the president of the Yugoslav state presidency. The message is connected with Middle East developments, the Nonaligned Movement and the state of Egyptian-Yugoslav relations.

Dr Ghali arrived in Belgrade yesterday, Thursday, for a 3-day visit to Yugoslavia. Following Ghali's arrival, he held discussion with Yugoslav Foreign Minister Josip Vrhovec. Dr Ghali said that their discussions, aimed at bolstering relations between the two countries and explaining the efforts which they must exert to strengthen and revitalize the Nonaligned Movement in the international arena to confront the deviations threatening it.

In a statement to our radio correspondent in Belgrade, Dr Ghali emphasized Egypt's readiness to work for a comprehensive peace in the Middle East and to continue the autonomy negotiations until the hurdles obstructing the establishment of full autonomy for the Palestinian people are overcome. He added that the negotiations are not restricted to a deadline.

Dr Ghali further said that during his discussions in Cairo, the U.S. secretary of state affirmed his country's readiness to cooperate to overcome the obstacles which emerged in the past few months and to adopt new methods leading to permanent peace.

He added that Egypt emphasized to the U.S. secretary its readiness to exert efforts to achieve peace and that the new methods must take into consideration the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, because Egypt seeks to help the Palestinians determine their fate by themselves.

In conclusion, Dr Ghali said that it was possible to hold a meeting at the ministerial level of the Egyptian, U.S. and Israel delegations in light of the results which the working groups concerned with the negotiations will reach.

Ghali Presents Mubarak Message

NC151515 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1425 GMT 15 Jan 82

[Text] Belgrade, 15 Jan (MENA) -- Yugoslav President Sergej Kraigher received a message today from President Husni Mubarak on the latest developments in the Middle East and Egypt's constant efforts to achieve a just and permanent peace in the area. Minister of state for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali handed the message to the Yugoslav president during a meeting with him today.

MENA has learned that at the beginning of the meeting, Ghali reviewed Egypt's efforts for peace, strengthening and preserving the (?original concept) of the Nonaligned Movement, by virtue of the firm and close relations between the two countries and in keeping with their responsibility as founding members of the movement.

The Yugoslav president expressed the appreciation of the Yugoslav people and government of the Egyptian role both in the Middle East and in the Nonaligned Movement. He expressed wishes for President Mubarak, praising the proper [word indistinct] and commitment to the Nonaligned Movement and principles outlined in his first speech following his election as president of the republic.

Ghali on Belgrade Talks

NC161736 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1655 GMT 16 Jan 82

[Text] Belgrade, 16 Jan (MENA) -- Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has said that his talks with senior Yugoslav officials were positive and cordial with complete agreement regarding several questions that were discussed, particularly in relation to the Nonaligned Movement, safeguarding its goals and principles, and the need for consultations between the two countries on international issues.

In a statement to MENA, Dr Ghali said the two sides agreed to strengthen the Nonaligned Movement and that they attach importance on the establishment of effective cooperation among the Nonaligned States. They agreed that the interest in the East-West competition should not be at the expense of the interest in the North-South dialogue.

Ghali added: To maintain the continuity of this dialogue, it will be necessary to hold a dialogue between the North and South so that the dialogue between them will yield the aspired results.

Dr Ghali said he agreed with the Yugoslav foreign minister of the need to tighten bilateral relations in various fields.

Dr Ghali asserted that Egypt will not be restricted to a specific time in the autonomy negotiations, but will continue the negotiations even after 25 April, until full autonomy is achieved for the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Dr Ghali noted that this will be a transitional phase after which the Palestinian people will determine their own future.

Talks Conclude

NC162038 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1938 GMT 16 Jan 82

[Text] Belgrade, 16 Jan (MENA) -- The talks Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has been holding with Yugoslav Foreign Affairs Secretary Josip Vrhovec concluded in Belgrade tonight at a working dinner attended by the two delegations.

At the dinner banquet, Ghali expressed full satisfaction with the results that were reached during the talks. He said that the talks affirmed the good historical relations which have continued between Egypt and Yugoslavia since their leaders formulated the nonaligned principles in Brioni.

Ghali stressed that Egypt and Yugoslavia will struggle to continue the movement's original policy and to keep it free from deviations.

At a press conference he gave tonight, Ghali asserted that Egypt will continue the negotiations for achieving a comprehensive and just solution to the Middle East problem. Noting that so far there is no other practical alternative.

He pointed out that Egypt supports any practical initiative for solving the Middle East problem provided that the parties concerned agree to it.

Ghali reaffirmed that Egypt does not speak for the Palestinians and that its objective is the establishment of full Palestinian autonomy with a transitional period after which the Palestinian people will determine their own future.

The Egyptian minister of state expressed confidence that the Israelis will withdraw from the remaining part of Sinai on schedule and stressed the necessity also for Israel's withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Ghali said that he will soon visit several African states. He said that the OAU foreign ministers meeting in February will mark the beginning of an Egyptian diplomatic move this year in Africa, noting that the meeting will be an opportunity for consultations among the African foreign ministers.

Answering a question about Egypt's participation in the extraordinary conference to be held in Kuwait in April by the Nonaligned Coordination Bureau to discuss the Palestinian question and the Middle East problem, Ghali said that the bureau's meetings are open to all members of the Nonaligned Movement.

Ghali expressed the hope that a spirit of success will prevail at the meetings of the next Nonaligned summit conference to be held in Baghdad and that no regional problems or bilateral differences will be brought up at the conference, noting that this would weaken the unity and coherence of the movement.

Ghali Press Conference

NC162150 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 16 Jan 82

[Excerpt] At a press conference held in Belgrade today, Dr Ghali said that his talks in Yugoslavia were positive. He said that Egypt will attend the Nonaligned states summit conference in Baghdad in September and the Nonaligned Movement Political Bureau's meeting scheduled to be held in Kuwait.

Ghali expressed the hope that the nonaligned states will have new ideas for solving the Middle East problem.

The minister of state for foreign affairs will go to Italy tomorrow for talks with the Italian foreign minister on the situation in the Middle East and the subject of the European states' participation in the Sinai multinational force.

Dr Butrus Ghali also stated that Egypt will restore diplomatic relations with Chad in the coming days. He added that the decision was made in light of the coordination between Egypt and Chad.

Ghali Leaves Belgrade

NC171620 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1516 GMT 17 Jan 82

[Excerpts] Belgrade, 17 Jan (MENA) -- Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali left Belgrade today for Cairo following a visit to Yugoslavia during which he conveyed a message from President Husni Mubarak to Yugoslav President Sergej Kraigher on bolstering the Nonaligned Movement and on the Egyptian diplomatic moves for the sake of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

MENA has learned that the Yugoslav foreign minister has accepted an invitation to visit Egypt and that a date for the visit will be set later.

Official sources in Belgrade have emphasized that the positive atmosphere and the amicable spirit which prevailed at the talks reflect the depth of the sincere and historical ties between Egypt and Yugoslavia within and without the framework of the Nonaligned Movement.

Arrival in Cairo

NC182016 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Jan 82

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali returned to Cairo this evening at the conclusion of his visits to Rome and Belgrade.

CANADIAN ENERGY MINISTER DISCUSSES AID ACCORD

NC172040 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Jan 82

[Text] Canadian Minister of Energy and Mines Marc Lalonde has announced that his country will extend aid to Egypt to search for new commercial sources of uranium that could meet its needs in case it uses Canadian nuclear reactors, which use heavy water instead of enriched uranium.

The Canadian minister pointed out that Canada will provide a $25-million grant to Egypt for this purpose.

He said that studies are currently being made on the two Aswan electricity generation projects and the training of Egyptian personnel in the field of power generation and transmission.

He also pointed out that the Canadian nuclear reactors, which use heavy water, are of a high standard and that they have not had an incident over a period of 20 years. Their operating capacity is 80 percent. The building of the reactor takes 6 years may extend to 10 years.

The minister explained that Canada will supply uranium to Egypt for a period of 30 years in accordance with the agreement.

CANADA GRANTS $12 MILLION FOR ENERGY RESEARCH

NC171550 Cairo MENA in English 1250 GMT 17 Jan 82

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jan (MENA) -- Egypt and Canada concluded here today a protocol on joint technical cooperation in nonconventional electricity and energy whereby Canada extends to Egypt a 12-million-dollar grant to implement a number of projects in the new energy field.

Part of the grant will be allocated to implement the new energy projects, mainly the use of the solar and wind energy in generating power. The grant will be used in financing the economic feasibility of the projects of generating power from the barrages installed across the river Nile.

The two sides held a meeting following the signing ceremony and they reviewed the electricity projects tabled on the ministry's five-year plan.

AL-AHRAM REPORTS MUBARAK TO MAKE SPEECHES ABROAD

NC182211 Cario MENA in Arabic 2200 GMT 18 Jan 82

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jan (MENA) -- President Muhammad Husni Mubarak will make an important speech at the National Press Club in Washington. The president will give this speech at his meeting with world newsmen on the last day of his visit to the United States. The president will hold a press conference to answer newsmen's questions.

Featuring this report in tomorrow's edition, AL-AHRAM says President Mubarak will make two official speeches during his tour of European countries and the United States. The first speech will be made at the luncheon to be given for him by Italian President Alessandro Pertini, while the second will be made in the course of his visit to the White House. He will be received there by President Ronald Reagan on 3 February.

MENA REPORTS KLIBI INTERVIEW ON EGYPT ARAB ROLE

NC181904 Cairo MENA in English 1715 GMT 18 Jan 82

[Text] London, 18 Jan (MENA) -- Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi said Egyptian President Husni Mubarak was shouldering his responsibility clearly and openly, and described President Mubarak's recent directives as being positive as a whole.

Klibi said in an exclusive interview with ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT (Middle East), in reply to a query about Egypt's return to the Arab ranks, that the Arabs did not want to interfere in President Mubarak's affairs as they did not want to create any tension, and the Egyptian president had full liberty to act in what he sees as the higher interests of his country and the Arab nation.

The paper said Klibi denied that such an attitude was a freezing of the League efforts to restore Egypt to the fold adding that they should give the Egyptian president an opportunity to restore Sinai.

Concluding, Klibi said the Arab states decision to transfer the seat of the Arab League to Tunis was a temporary decision and that in case Egypt returns to the Arab rank, the Arab countries will meet anew and decide upon the suitable base of the League and also its secretary general.

ATH-THAWRAH INTERVIEWS POPULAR ARMY'S RAMADAN

JN141046 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 14 Jan 82

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Jan (INA) -- Taha Yasin Ramadan, commander in chief of the Popular Army and first deputy prime minister, has asserted that war with Iran will only end with the collapse of the Iranian regime.

In a comprehensive press interview published here today in the newspaper ATH-THAWRAH, Ramadan said that the Persian enemy is weakened by its wounds and needs some strong blows to bring about its complete collapse. He stressed that Iraq's difference with Iran over several hundred kilometers of land and half of the Shatt al-'Arab was the straw which broke the camel's back and the reason for the outbreak of the war. However, he said, the main reason lies in the fact that Iranian rulers aim at expropriating Iraq's independence, peace and security. He added that Iranian authorities expressed these aggressive intentions when they interfered in Iraq's internal affairs with the aim of disrupting the Iraqi people and stirring anarchy and sectarian massacres. He said that before Iraq replied to Iranian aggression on 22 September 1980, Iran had actually attacked Iraqi lands on which there was no disagreement.

Ramadan said that war with Iran is not one of borders as some try to depict it, but one of destiny and existence for Iraq. He answered those saying that priority should be given to the Palestine war by asserting that priority should be given to the war which imposes itself on the Arabs and that there is no difference between the Shatt al-Arab and Lake Tiberias or between Zayn al-Qaws and any city in Palestine. He expressed the hope that Iran's rulers will admit the facts resulting from the war. However, he ruled this out by saying: We cannot attach importance to this hope.

He stressed that Iraq has no ambitions against Iranian territories and that the Iraqi Army's presence on Iranian lands is for the sake of forcing the enemy to recognize Iraq's pan-Arab rights. We will certainly achieve such an aim, he said. He also stressed that Iraq will not give up even an inch of its land or water no matter how long the war takes or how large the sacrifices.

Taha Yasin Ramadan emphasized that the Iranian Army has failed in the war and lost the superiority it enjoyed at the beginning of the war both quantitively and qualitatively of its air force, artillery and navy. In contrast, he added, there emerged the Iraqi Army's superiority. As for armor, Iraq has been superior since the beginning of the war.

He added that the Iraqi Air Force has been the master for over 5 months and managed to exclude the Iranian Air Force from the war despite its quantitative and qualitative superiority of both fighter planes and helicopters. He said that a complete transformation in favor of Iraq has occurred in the artillery corps and that the Iranian naval force has completely lost its impact as a result of the large losses inflicted on it during the war and the nature of the war itself.

The commander in chief of the Popular Army said that the same methods of war are still used and that the recent operations carried out east of the Karun river and Bostan have not at all affected the military status of the Iraqi forces, which can move to any Iranian spot or military target. He added that the operation carried out in Bostan has practically contributed to a new collapse of the Iranian regime and fresh wounds in the Iranian military and economic power. He stressed that Iraq is working to develop its methods so as to improve the performance of war tasks at the front.

Regarding the aims of the recent Zionist raids on the Maqar an-Na'am area in western Iraq, Ramadan said that the Zionist entity is apprehensive over Iraq emerging strong and victorious from its war with Iran.

He added that Iraq's victory greatly worries the Zionist entity because this entity realizes that Iraq is fighting an enemy similar to the Zionist entity in methods of mobilization, military creed and armament and that Iraq has gained further experience in dealing with these matters militarily. He stressed that the Zionist entity is working hard to exhaust the Iraqi Air Force, to prevent it from maintaining air superiority and curtail its effective role by freezing a number of aircraft on another front. He said that Iraqi pilots have gained the experience of 17 months of dogfights against Tehran aircraft which are of the same type used by the Zionist entity, something which must be taken into consideration when reviewing the Zionist enemy's aims in raiding Iraq.

Mr Taha Yasin Ramadan pointed out that Iraq is the Arab nation's frontline state, adding that the Arab east states in particular form an indivisible part of the Arab-Persian conflict.

He stated that the Iranian Government's role and links with Zionism are no longer secret to anyone, adding that Iran's allegations to the effect that it supports Palestine are mere falsehoods, which only mean that Iran supports Palestine even though it expelled the Zionist diplomatic representatives from Tehran, a procedure previously adopted by many non-Islamic states. He asserted that if Iran truly supported the Arabs, it would have -- and immediately after the Shah's fall -- returned the three Arab islands usurped by the shah to their people and the Iraqi territories -- whose return to Iraqi sovereignty had been previously agreed on.

The general commander of the Popular Army pointed out that the Iranian rulers' goal has always been and still is to divert Iraq -- which represents the major base for liberating Palestine -- from carrying out its pan-Arab role in this respect.

He added that the Iranian rulers' methods and ways of dealing with the political situation have distorted the true nature of Islam, and he stressed the need for Muslims to shoulder the responsibility of defending their religion and creed.

He pointed out that the Iraqi-Iranian war has provided the opportunity for preparing the Iraqi people for the war for the liberation of Palestine, adding that the war has given Iraq a unique experience. Indeed, he pointed out, the military units fought on many different terrains -- mountains, plains, hills, quagmires and swamps.

The general commander of the Popular Army disclosed that the revolution has laid down basis for summoning volunteers on a widescale to participate in the war, saying: High hopes are pinned on expanding voluntary service from its party and national framework to include Arab people everywhere, thus giving the battle a new pan-Arab dimension.

He added that the war being waged by Iraq is the first pan-Arab war in the popular concept of the word, saying that voluntary service will be even more effective than the presence of Arab armies. On summoning Iraqi volunteers, he said that this provided the opportunity for creating an individual who is closely related to his duties and national and pan-Arab responsibilities. He asserted that the idea of voluntary service is not for the purpose of finding out who wishes and who does not wish to fight but goes beyond that, since it creates a new fighting spirit. He pointed out that this fighting spirit is not only instilled in the hearts of 1.25 million Arabs but also in the hearts of people in general.

Mr Taha Yasin Ramadan declared that the number of Popular Army personnel had reached 380,000 by the end of 1981, adding that their number will reach 450,000 during the current year. He pointed out that the Popular Army belongs to all people, particularly since an important phenomenon during the war has been the joining of non-Ba'thist citizens in the Popular Army ranks. He added that the numbers of those applying for voluntary service exceeds our needs.

He added that rotation, which means that every Popular Army unit -- which numbers about one infantry battalion -- participates in the war for three months has provided the opportunity for a large number of citizens to participate in the just war being waged by Iraq.

He asserted that the number of fighters during the past 16 months -- the war months -- has exceeded the number of fighters for the three years preceding the war, which reflects the size of the people's response.

On the economic situation, Mr Taha Yasin Ramadan asserted that the 1982 budget and investment trends reflect in practice the Iraqi economy's strength after 16 months of war. He added that the economic prerequisites have been provided for continuing the war through 1982 and that the battlefronts will continue to be upheld with men and arms, pointing out that this was given major consideration in the drawing up of the annual plan. He asserted that last year's same high standard of work will continue in order to build an economic base, adding that foodstuffs and the major commodities will be as abundant as they are at present.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE NO 588

JN181652 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Jan 82

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jan (INA) -- The Iraqi fighter planes today resumed their successful raids on the Iranian enemy concentrations and positions in the central and southern sectors of the operations theater, inflicting grave losses in life and equipment. All the Iraqi planes returned safely to base. Communique No 588 issued this evening by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command put the known enemy losses during the past 24 hours at 21 killed and 1 tank, 3 vehicles and 1 stockpile of hardware destroyed. The communique said that Iraq's losses amount to three martyrs and one vehicle damaged.

The following is the text of Communique No 588 issued by the Armed Forces General Command: In the name of God, the mericiful, the compassionate.

Following are the results of our victorious troops' military operations last night and today:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Seven were killed in the Abadan area.
B. Six were killed and one stockpile of hardware destroyed in Mimak opposite our positions in Sayf Sa'd.
C. Five were killed and one vehicle destroyed in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab area.
D. Three were killed in the Nowsud area.

E. One tank destroyed in the Ahvaz area.
F. One vehicle destroyed in the Dezful area.
G. One vehicle destroyed in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd].
H. Our fighter planes carried out all day today successful raids on the enemy positions and concentrations in the central and southern sectors of the operations theater, inflicting on them grave losses in life and equipment. All our planes returned safely to base.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 21 dead and 1 tank, 3 vehicles and 1 stockpile of hardware destroyed.

II. Our losses:

A. In personnel: Three martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: One vehicle damaged.

INA ON FORMATION OF SPECIAL TASK BRIGADES

JN181110 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 18 Jan 82

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 18 Jan (INA) -- The expeditious formation of new military groups called special task brigades [alwiyat al-muhimmat al-khassah] confirms Iraq's determination to develop its war methods in order to confront Iran's aggression.

The official state efforts in the fields of economy, trade and industry since the beginning of the new year as well as the party efforts throughout 1982 [as received] focused on strengthening and developing war efforts to supply the front with men and arms so as to maintain the important military gains achieved since the beginning of the Iraqi-Iranian war.

The repeated visits by President Saddam Husayn and senior Iraqi staff and military officials to the huge training camps, which were set up at the beginning of the war, indicate the great importance attached by the leadership to the new military groups. Great attention has been given to the current training of tens of thousands of volunteers of various ages and to the future tasks to be carried out by the new forces in cooperation with the military units all along the front.

ATH-THAWRAH REJECTS SYRIAN MEDIATION IN WAR

JN151008 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 15 Jan 82

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Jan (INA) -- The newspaper ATH-THAWRAH has stressed that Iraq has not agreed and will not agree to any mediation in which the Syrian regime directly or indirectly takes part to end the war with the Persian enemy. It added that Iraq did not in the first place see a role to be played by this deviant regime which runs after the mirage of capitulatory U.S. solutions.

In an article today, the paper asked: Who asked the Damascus rulers to play the role of a mediator? If they were asked to do so by the Khomeyni regime under the impact of the bitter and massive defeats inflicted on it in the recent battles of Khafajiyah [Susangerd] Gilan-e Gharb, Sumar and Nowsud, we say that talk about this mediation is only an attempt to save the weak Iranian regime from a state of military, economic and internal deterioration.

The paper, organ of the Arab Socialist Ba'th party, said that what is really strange and extremely suprising is Khaddam's announcement that his regime has ceased to play the role of a mediator. The Syrian foreign minister made this announcement during his recent Arab Gulf tour when he said that his regime has ceased to play the role of a mediator to end the Iraqi-Iranian war.

Concluding, the paper said that the dilemma of Damascus rulers and their disgrace in the Golan, which resulted from their defeatism and failure to carry out their national responsibilities, made them delirious enough to talk about war, liberation, solidarity and mediation.

SADDAM HUSAYN CONFERS WITH SAUDI OFFICIAL

JN181850 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1835 GMT 18 Jan 82

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jan (INA) -- President Saddam Husayn received here today His Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and commander of the Saudi National Guard, on the occasion of his visit to Iraq. The discussion centered on the relations between the two fraternal countries and means to strengthen these relations. The two sides reviewed the latest developments in the Arab arena.

The meeting was attended by Sa'dun Shakir, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and interior minister, Tariq Hamad al-'Abdallah, RCC secretary general and acting director of the Presidential Office.

President Saddam Husayn hosted a luncheon in honor of His Highness Prince 'Abdallah.

RELIGIOUS TRUSTS MINISTER SHARIR RELIEVED

JN141208 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Jan 82

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Jan (INA) -- It was announced here today that Religious Trusts Minister Nuri Faysal Sharir has been relieved of his post. This was stated in a republican decree issued today. The decree appointed 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Ghafur as minister of Religious trusts.

ROMANIAN TRADE DELEGATION LEAVES 18 JAN

JN180846 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0820 GMT 18 Jan 82

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jan (INA) -- A Romanian delegation led by Ion Nicolae, first deputy minister of foreign trade and international economic cooperation, left Baghdad last night at the end of a weeklong visit to Iraq.

In a predeparture statement to INA, Ion Nicolae said that his delegation held talks with Iraqi Trade Ministry officials on ways of developing trade and economic cooperation between the two friendly countries.

The Romanian delegation was seen off by Trade Ministry Under Secretary Mahdi Muhsin 'Awdah.

U.S. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE HOLDS TALKS

Meets Al-Qasim

JN171553 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 17 Jan 82

[Excerpts] Amman, 17 Jan (PETRA) -- Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim received in his office this morning Nicolas Veliotes, U.S. assistant secretary of state, who is currently visiting Jordan.

Veliotes submitted a review of U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig's mission to both of Egypt and Israel last week.

Al-Qasim reiterated the firm Jordanian point of view regarding the components of a comprehensive and just peace in the region. Al-Qasim called on the United States to practice its effective role and contribution in providing peace requirements represented in the total Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied in 1967, and the return of Arab sovereignty, the recognition of legitimate rights of the Arab Palestinian people including their rights to determine their future in total freedom and establish their independent state on national Palestinian soil under the leadership of the PLO, its only representative.

Al-Qasim explained to the U.S. official the dangers that threaten the security and sability of the region as a consequence of Israeli expansionist policy, the latest of which was the annexation of occupied Syrian Golan Heights.

The foreign minister called on the U.S. Government to join efforts with other member countries of the UN Security Council to impose sanctions on Israel, to deter it from executing its expansionist policies at the expense of Arab rights and territories.

Talks With Army Commander

JN181519 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 18 Jan 82

[Text] Amman, 18 Jan (PETRA) -- Staff Lt Gen ash-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the armed forces, received in his office this morning Nicolas Veliotes, U.S. assistant secretary of state, who is currently visiting Jordan. The meeting was attended by Chief of Staff Brig Gen Fathi Abu Talib, the U.S. ambassador in Amman, and the delegation accompanying the quest.

HAIG TRIP SEEN AS MORE SHOW THAN SUBSTANCE

JN160742 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 16 Jan 82 p 4

[Editorial: "Broadway Al"]

[Text] Reporters travelling to the Middle East earlier this week with U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig asked Mr Haig's party if the United States planned to appoint a special representative to the Camp David "autonomy" negotiations. The answer was that an envoy would be named only if doing so would help achieve specific progress. "If not, if there are more difficult substantive problems," the reporters were told by a senior American official," I don't think it's appropriate to engage in theater for theater's sake."

That is most peculiar, indeed, coming as it does from one of the more theatrical travelling shows we can recall in recent history. The trip that Mr Haig has just concluded to Egypt and Israel is probably a sincere American attempt to make peace, and in this it reflects American naivete more than it does a malicious spirit. The American administration is not mean-spirited; it is simply prone to adopt political expediency as its most important determinant of what is possible and desirable.

Therefore Mr Haig and his people keep trying to squeeze life out of a lifeless process because they are not faced with any compelling reason to do otherwise. The lack of a serious Arab political offensive or even a unified Arab position allows the curtain to keep rising and falling on the dramatic impulses of Mr Haig and his fellow players. It is, in fact, the only show in town, but the trouble is that it is more of a show than a substantive attempt at peace-making. Mr Haig will be back in a few weeks for more of the same. To do an encore, perhaps? To bask in the lights and the applause, to listen to the ferocious cheering of the ignorant? Is this not much sound and fury, signifying nothing? Isn't Broadway the place for such a performance?

AR-RA'Y ON HAIG'S CONTACTS WITH PALESTINIANS

JN190900 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 19 Jan 82

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Search for a Mirage," AR-RA'Y says: At a time when Israel's Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir expressed his fears concerning inflexibility in the Egyptian stand on the autonomy talks after the completion of Israeli Sinai withdrawal, it is noticed that the U.S. side to these talks is making intensive contacts with a number of Palestinian figures in the occupied land in the hope of convincing them to take a stand implying that the Palestinians there have nothing against participation in these talks.

It is no secret that this attempt was begun by the U.S. secretary of state during his visit to Israel. Radio stations point out that Haig will continue his attempts when he returns to the region in the next few weeks in order to search for Palestinian leadership which agrees to participate in the process of autonomy before the final date of Israel's Sinai withdrawal.

In reality, what the U.S. secretary of state is looking for is a mirage because the Palestinian people were the first to reject the autonomy plan. These people have declared and still declare that the PLO is their sole and legitimate representative. Therefore, any attempt to polarize a Palestinian leadership as a replacement for the PLO or tempt it to participate in what was rejected by the Palestinian people is a fruitless attempt which will not succeed.

AR-RA'Y concludes: It is better for the U.S. administration to know that its respect of the just Palestinian rights and its direct dealing with the PLO are the real ways to search for a just and comprehensive peace instead of wasting time and effort in the blind alleys of autonomy talks which cannot lead to real peace in the region either before or after the completion of the Israeli Sinai withdrawal.

AD-DUSTUR DENOUCES U.S. POLICIES IN UN

JN160942 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 16 Jan 82

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the leadline "Green Light for a New Aggression,"AD-DUSTUR says: When the United States hinders the meetings of the Security Council by applying pressure and threatening some of its members to prevent them from supporting a resolution to apply sanctions on Israel for its Golan annexation, it is no better or more acceptable than using the veto, because the result is the same: enabling the Zionist entity to escape from punishment and encouraging it to carry out aggression against the Arab countries and to expand at the expense of their territories and their pan-Arab existence.

Not concent with using its veto, U.S. policy tried to make Britain and France also use the veto against any resolution imposing sanctions on Israel for its annexation of the Golan Heights, then threatened and practiced terrorism against Zaire and Panama to prevent them from supporting the Arab draft resolution.

AD-DUSTUR adds: This step, in addition to making Washington avoid using the veto, is a mean and malicious one, which shows a continued hostility toward the Arabs and is an encouragement and blessing to Israeli aggression. It is also the green light that U.S. policy is giving to Israel to continue its measures of expansion and aggression against Arab territories. What draws the attention is that this rejected U.S. stand came at a time when Washington received a report from its ambassador in Tel Aviv asserting that Israel would announce the annexation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip before its withdrawal from Sinai in April. This U.S. stand makes us believe that there is conspiracy and coordination between U.S. policy and Israeli attacks. This makes us also wonder if there is any use in terminating the strategic alliance at a time when U.S. policy proves that its support for Israel is stronger than anything which might be included in any written document or strategic alliance.

It is our right to question in this case whether the United States' approval of the UN resolution last month condemning the Golan annexation and pointing to the possibility of imposing sanctions on Israel was made merely out of hypocrisy or an attempt to absorb Arab resentment and hide the truth of U.S. aims. The U.S. stand in the Security Council is now fiercely and strongly defending Israeli aggression and is fighting fiercely to defend Israel against any international sanctions.

AD-DUSTUR concludes: U.S. policy, as its true nature appeared in the meetings of the Security Council, removed all the confidence and hope left in the possibility of the adoption by the United States of a balanced stand. It even severed the fragile thread which pointed to possible credible U.S. stands, thus causing severe damage not only to Arab-U.S. relations but to U.S. interests and reputation.

AD-DUSTUR PRAISES EGYPT'S STAND ON AUTONOMY

JN190819 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 19 Jan 82

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Shamir and Egyptian Relentlessness," the newspaper AD-DUSTUR writes: What is most strange and ridiculous is Israel accusing others of being relentless at a time when the entire world knows that it is Israel's intransigent stand which led to the failure of the international efforts being exerted to establish a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Yesterday, Yitzhaq Shamir tried at the Israeli Knesset Security and Foreign Affairs Committee to justify the failure of the autonomy negotiations by accusing Egypt of adopting a hardline stand which curtailed the possibility of reaching an agreement before Israel's withdrawal from the rest of Sinai on 26 April.

AD-DUSTUR adds: Israel considers Egypt's insistence on a complete autonomy which constitutes a main basis for guaranteeing the Palestinians' right to self-determination the reason for making no progress in the negotiations. It considers everything contrary to its policy and its expansionist aggressive ambitions as a negative stand hampering the peace efforts. This intransigent Israeli stand applies to any negotiations, treaty or formula to establish peace.

Israel understands peace as submission to its will and fulfillment of its ambitions. Therefore, it wants Egypt to relinquish its concept of autonomy and accept the Israeli viewpoint which disavows all principles, values and the Palestinian people's rights.

Israel views the normalization of relations with Egypt as touristic, economic and commercial colonialism as well as political hegemony determining Egyptian policy even after Israel's withdrawal from Sinai. Shamir talks about Tel Aviv's fears that the Egyptian stand toward Israel will change after the latter's final withdrawal from Sinai, indicating that he wants to keep Egypt isolated from the Arab nation and a captive of alliance with the Camp David partners. This means that Shamir wants to dictate to Egypt the policy it has to follow after the withdrawal as if there were a secret clause in the Camp David accords obliging Egypt to remain outside the Arab circle.

Concluding, AD-DUSTUR says: Egypt's stand on the autonomy negotiations is reassuring so far because it does not want to sign any document or agreement conflicting with the Palestinians' rights and national aspirations. We are fully confident that Egypt will stick to this stand regardless of the consequences because its destiny and future are linked with its Arab nation and not with Camp David or the alleged peace treaty with Israel.

ARAB LEAGUE'S KLIBI HOLDS TALKS, DEPARTS

Confers With Husayn

JN141507 Amman PETRA-JAN in Arabic 1440 GMT 14 Jan 82

[Text] Amman, 14 Jan (PETRA) -- His Majesty King Husayn received Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi at Al-Hummar Palace this afternoon. During the meeting they discussed current Arab issues, topics pertaining to the joint Arab action, and means of commitments to the principles of Arab solidarity in the service of the pan-Arab objectives and the supreme Arab interests.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim.

Talks With Al-Qasim

JN141739 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Jan 82

[Text] Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim today received Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi and reviewed with him current Arab issues in light of recent developments and the need for unifying Arab efforts in order to face the challenges which threaten Arab existence, security and stability. They also reviewed means of realizing Arab solidarity and the current consultations to speed up the reconvening of the Arab summit conference.

Leaves 15 Jan

JN151241 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Jan 82

[Excerpt] Chedli Klibi, Arab League secretary general, left Amman this morning at the end of a 2-day official visit to Jordan, during which he met with King Husayn and Prime Minister Mudar Badran.

GROUP CLAIMS CREDIT FOR PARIS ASSASSINATION

JN181618 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1502 GMT 18 Jan 82

[Text] An unknown Lebanese organization called the Armed Lebanese Revolutionary Groups [Al-Fasa'il ath-Thawriyah al-Lubnaniyah al-Musallahah] claimed in Beirut the responsibility for the assassination of the assistant of the U.S. military attache in Paris this morning. An organization which identified itself by a similar name also claimed responsibility for the attempted assassination of the U.S. charge d'affairs in Paris 2 months ago.

Beirut Group Issues Communique

NC181926 Paris AFP in English 1920 GMT 18 Jan 82

[Text] Beirut, 18 Jan (AFP) -- A previously unknown group, the Lebanese Armed Revolutionary Factions, has claimed responsibility for today's killing of the U.S. deputy military attache to the Paris embassy, Lt Colonel Charles Ray.

In a handwritten letter to the REUTER news agency's Beirut Bureau, the group [redacted] the attache was "executed because the administration of President Ronald Reagan and its allies were involved in a deal to crush and massacre the Lebanese people".

The group also claimed responsibility for the November 12 attack against Christian Chapman, then U.S. charge d'affaires in Paris, who escaped unharmed.

Col Ray, 43, was gunned down early today on the sidewalk opposite his home in the fashionable 16th District of Paris.

"The American administration knows full well it must expect similar actions against all those who continue to strive for the massacre of the poor, in El Salvador or in southern Lebanon," the communique added.

SAM'S FIRED AT ISRAELI PLANES OVER LEBANON

NC190951 Paris AFP in English 0948 GMT 19 Jan 82

[Text] Beirut, 19 Jan (AFP) -- Two Syrian surface-to-air missiles were fired today at two Israeli aircraft flying over the Al-Biqa' Plain in east-central Lebanon, correspondents in the region reported.

The aircraft which flew over the area around 11 a.m., were not hit by the missiles. They flew over Beirut 15 minutes later.

It was the first time since Syria installed the Soviet-made missiles late last April that they had been fired.

Israel has threatened to eliminate them if they were not withdrawn, and the matter led to extreme tension in May and June before Philip Habib, a special U.S. negotiator, made the first of several mediation tours of the region last spring.

Radio on Missiles

NC191011 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 19 Jan 82

[Text] The National News Agency's correspondent in Al-Biqa' reports that two Israeli planes flew at a high altitude over Al-Biqa' and that the Arab Deterrent Forces fired two SAM's at the planes, causing a loud explosion in the air.

A formation of Israeli planes also flew over Beirut and its southern suburb drawing ground fire.

Israeli Planes Overfly Beirut

NC191139 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1115 GMT 19 Jan 82

[Text] Enemy warplanes this morning flew intensive sorties over southern Lebanon and Beirut, drawing groundfire from the air defenses of the joint forces.

In Al-Biqa', AFP quotes press correspondents as saying that the Arab Deterrent Forces at 1100 fired two SAM's at Israeli warplanes which flew over the central area in Al-Biqa'.

AS-SAFIR REPORTS ISRAELI PLAN TO ATTACK LEBANON

LD161242 Kuwait KUNA in English 1052 GMT 16 Jan 82

[Excerpt] Beirut, 16 Jan (KUNA) -- The pro-Libyan Lebanese daily newspaper AS-SAFIR published Saturday a five-phase alleged Israeli plan to attack Palestinian guerrillas, leftist militias and Syrian peacekeeping forces in Lebanon within two months.

The paper, in its front-page eight-column story, quoted "informed Arab sources" for the information about the so-called "Leva" Israeli operation.

The plan, as carried by the paper, stipulates the "shelling of Syrian missile emplacements and positions in the Al-Biqa', the shelling of joint forces' positions in the south and some other Lebanese areas, an attempt to impose a naval siege on the towns of Tyre, Sidon and Tripoli, an attempt to deploy tank units across southern Lebanon to the Al-Biqa' and attempts to launch special operations against defense positions."

The paper also quoted the sources as saying the alleged Israeli plan includes the deployment of new weapons like "Lance missiles and laser-guided bombs."

The (?"fuse") for starting the reported operation, the paper said, will be "any incident provoked by (Israeli-backed militiamen of renegade Maj.) Sa'd Haddad that will deteriorate the situation in southern Lebanon to be followed by "fierce artillery exchanges to justify the collapse of the ceasefire agreement."

The Israeli reported plan, according to the leftist paper, has three main objectives:

"To paralyze the joint" Palestinian-Lebanese leftist forces in order to "pave the way for the self-rule negotiations" concerning Palestinians of the occupied territories "according to Israel's understanding of such a rule."

To "weaken the military capability of Syria's military forces in Lebanon" to force Syria out of this country facing a "subsequent domestic crisis and an escalation of the Lebanese" unrest.

And to "test the stand of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak for the second time after annexing the Golan Heights."

If Mubarak protested against the Israeli move, the paper said, the Jewish state will find in that "an excuse" to cancel its withdrawal from the rest of Sinai scheduled for next April.

The situation in southern Lebanon between Israel and the alliance of Palestine Liberation Organization guerrillas and their Lebanese leftist militia allies has been generally quiet since last July 24 when U.S. special envoy to the Middle East Philip C. Habib mediated a cease-fire, with Saudi Arabian help, that ended two weeks of clashes.

KHADDAM VISITS, HOLDS TALKS IN MOSCOW 14-15 JAN

For Soviet and Syrian media coverage of Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam's 14-15 January visit to and talks in the Soviet Union, including accounts of speeches by Khaddam and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko at a luncheon given by Gromyko for Khaddam and the final joint communique released at the end of Khaddam's visit, see the Middle East & North Africa section of the 18 January Soviet Union DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

KHADDAM SUBMITS POLITICAL REPORT TO CABINET

JN181955 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 18 Jan 82

[Excerpts] The Cabinet convened here under Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kash at 1200 today. During the meeting, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, submitted a report on current political developments in the region, outlining Syria's stand during the Fes summit and its plan to confront Israel's aggressive decision to annex the Golan, whether inside or outside the UN Security Council.

Khaddam also underlined the outcome of President Hafiz al-Asad's tour of a number of the fraternal Arab states which was aimed at bringing about an effective Arab solidarity, particularly during the current circumstances when the Arab nation is requested to firmly confront Israel's aggressive and expansionist plans.

Khaddam explained the positive results of the Syrian-Soviet talks in Moscow within the framework of the friendship and cooperation agreement between the two friendly states.

BA'TH PARTY OFFICIAL RECEIVES CPSU DELEGATION

JN182013 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 18 Jan 82

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, received at noon today the CPSU delegation which is in Syria at the invitation of the party's National Command. The CPSU delegation is led by Comrade Karen Brutents, deputy chief of the International Department of the CPSU Central Committee. The meeting was attended by the USSR charge d'affaires in Damascus.

Talks centered on the bonds of cooperation and friendship between the two parties and the means of further promoting them. The two sides also reviewed the Middle East situation, the results of the escalating imperialist-Zionist onslaught, Israel's decision to annex the occupied Syrian Arab Golan Heights within the framework of its aggressive and expansionist objectives in the region as well is the ongoing activities to confront the hostile schemes, repel the continued aggression, restore Arab rights and entrench peace in the region.

The two sides' points of view were identical regarding the assessment of the situation and of the requested measures to confront the aggression.

The two sides reconfirmed that their countries' points of view are also identical regarding Israel's decision to annex the Golan Heights and the need to coordinate their stands on the mobilization of the popular and social energies in the various countries to face the powers of imperialism and Zionism.

The two sides then reviewed the program of cooperation between the two parties for the next 2 years and agreed to start the implementation of its provisions. The two sides voiced their satisfaction with the relations of cooperation and friendship between the two parties and the two countries, stressing their keen desire to further develop them to serve the objectives of their joint struggle and the interests of their countries.

The head of the CPSU delegation reconfirmed his country's support for the just struggle of the Syrian Arab Republic and the Arab nation to restore their rights and usurped territories.

He expressed his appreciation of the role performed by the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Syrian Arab Republic under the leadership of Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, the party's secretary general and president of the republic, in confronting imperialism and Zionism and backing the peoples' revolutionary struggle for freedom, independence and progress.

Further on Delegation

JN171518 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1425 GMT 17 Jan 82

[Text] Damascus, 17 Jan (SANA) -- The CPSU Central Committee has reiterated its support for the Ba'th Party's position under President Hafiz al-Asad toward the Zionist enemy decision to annex the occupied Golan and the Israeli-U.S. strategic alliance. This was said during the meeting held today between Comrade Muhammad Haydar, National Command member and head of the Foreign Relations Office, and Karen Brutents, deputy chief of the International Department of the CPSU Central Committee, and his delegation, who are visiting Syria at the invitation of the Ba'th Party National Command.

Brutents asserted that Syria and the Soviet Union enjoy identical views regarding the issues that menace the security and peace of the area and the world. He expressed the CPSU Central Committee's appreciation for President Hafiz al-Asad's efforts to mobilize the Arab nation's potentials to confront imperialist and Zionist designs in the area.

KHADDAM RECEIVES, HOLDS TALKS WITH PERCY

JN190936 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 19 Jan 82

[Text] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, this morning received Senator Charles Percy, chairman of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and his delegation. The talks dealt with the current international situation and the Arab region.

TALAS OPPOSES MISSILE REMOVAL FROM LEBANON

LD170920 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0807 GMT 17 Jan 82

[Text] Riyadh, 17 Jan (SPA) -- The Syrian defense minister, Maj Gen Mustafa Talas has declared that the Syrian missiles are to remain in Al-Biqa' as long as Zionist aggression continues. He stressed that statements, threats and warnings from the Zionist enemy will not deter Syria from its determination to strengthen its power and that no power on earth will force it to back down.

Maj Gen Mustafa Talas stated in an interview he gave to AL-JAZIRAH published today that the surface-to-air missile formation in Lebanon is considered part of the Syrian forces defending Lebanese territory. He explained that the purpose of the world clamor fabricated by Israel about the missiles is to seek justification to escalate Israeli aggression against Lebanon and Syria. He stressed that Muslims do not triumph in their wars against their enemies because of their superiority in arms but because of their faith in their cause and the will to die for it.

147 HIGH-RANKING OFFICERS ARRESTED IN SECRECY

NC181250 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Jan 82

[Text] Large-scale arrests took place in Syria, especially in Damascus and Aleppo, the day before yesterday. A total of 147 high-ranking officers were arrested on charges of carrying out hostile activities against the Syrian regime. Syrian authorities have shrouded the names of the detainees and the investigations in total secrecy.

IDF SPOKESMAN ON SYRIAN MISSILES, LEBANON

TA191110 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 19 Jan 82

[Text] It was reported from Lebanon around noon [1000 GMT] today that the Syrians have fired surface-to-air missiles at Israeli aircraft over the Lebanon's Al-Biqa' area. However, the IDF spokesman, who was replying to a question presented by our correspondent, said that based on the pilots' reports, no missiles had been fired at them. However, he confirmed that a routine air force flight did take place in Lebanese airspace and that all the aircraft returned home safely.

All Lebanese sources have reported that the missiles had missed hitting the target, but beyond this there are conflicting versions regarding the number of aircraft -- two or four -- the number of missiles that were fired and whether or not they were fired from Syrian territory near the Lebanese border or from the missile batteries Syria had positioned last summer inside the Al-Biqa' region.

Diplomatic sources in Lebanon have noted that since last summer Israeli aircraft have, by and large, refrained from overflying the Al-Biqa' region, although they continued to carry out patrols over Beirut. Nevertheless, today they did fly over Al-Biqa; and it was reported that groundfire was directed at them, but missed. To repeat, the IDF spokesman has reported that all aircraft have returned home safely and that the pilots did not spot any missiles.

Damascus sources have just reported that Sam-6 missiles have indeed been fired this morning from batteries in the Lebanese Al-Biqa' region at Israeli aircraft. The Syrian sources, who wished that reporters not disclose their identity, have refrained from providing additional detail before an announcement is issued by the Syrian Army.

BEGIN WANTS 'AMBIGUOUS' MFO CLAUSES CLARIFIED

TA191121 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 19 Jan 82

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin has found that certain phrases in the letters sent by the European countries on their agreement to participate in the Sinai Multinational Force and Observers [MFO] could be ambiguous, and he asked them for clarifications before Israel approves their participation in the force.

The prime minister will discuss this today with Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, who -- when asked by our correspondent Razi Barqay -- denied that there are differences between himself and the prime minister on this.

The Prime Minister's Office has also informed our correspondent that reports alleging that Mr Begin's stance is less flexible than the foreign minister's is unfounded.

Our correspondent offers the explanation that Israel is determined that the only basis for the European countries' participation in the MFO is the Camp David accords and that they refrain from mentioning the Venice declaration and similar such declarations in their announcements.

HAIG REQUESTS POSITIVE REPLY TO EUROPEANS ON MFO

TA190923 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 19 Jan 82 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Ilan Kfir]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig has asked Israel to reply in the affirmative to the letters of the four European foreign ministers on their countries' participation in the Sinai Multinational Force and Observers [MFO].

Jerusalem is finding it difficult to decide how to deal with the letters from the European foreign ministers which, according to political sources, do not meet all the conditions set by Israel and the United States for participation in the force. The European letters include a reference to earlier European resolutions. Jerusalem regards this as a hint at the Venice declaration which advocated self-determination for the Palestinians. Haig is asking Israel to ignore this reference and to agree to European participation in the MFO.

EQUIPMENT EVACUATION AFTER WITHDRAWAL AGREED TO

TA181213 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1203 GMT 18 Jan 82

[Text] Here is a news item just received from Egypt: Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that the Egyptians have accepted Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon's suggestion and agreed that Israel can evacuate equipment from the Yamit district after concluding the Sinai withdrawal.

Our correspondent reports that in the defense minister's talks today with the Egyptian foreign minister and defense minister, the three agreed on most subjects on the agenda. As for the modification of the frontier in Rafah and the border crossing point near Elat, it was agreed that joint committees from both sides will be dealing with the subject.

SHARON: AGREEMENT REACHED ON TIRAN ISSUE

TA181554 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 18 Jan 82

[Report by correspondent in Cairo Gad Becker -- recorded]

[Text] [Becker] Today was a successful day of deliberations in Cairo, partly in the framework of the supreme joint Israeli-Egyptian committee and partly in the framework of personal talks between Minister Sharon and his counterpart Kamal Ashan 'Ali. In these talks Egypt expressed its consent that Israel complete the evacuation of the Yamit district equipment even after the April withdrawal date. Minister Sharon said:

[Sharon] The topic was discussed by the Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and myself. I hope that by the end of my visit here we will find a solution that will be acceptable to both parties.

[Becker] Also Israel's demand that a permanent position of the Sinai Multinational Force and Observers [MFO] be established on the island of Tiran did not meet with Egyptian opposition.

[Sharon] The position of Israel and Egypt since the signing of the Camp David accords including their military part has all along been that the islands of Tiran and Sanafir belong to Zone C. As known, the MFO will be stationed in Zone C. I raised this matter again in my talk with the Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister. I was told that this is how Egypt views the islands, as belonging to the Zone C, and that Egypt is not opposed to having a permanent MFO position on Tiran.

[Becker] Now Israel will again hold talks with the United States and with the MFO's commander and director general in order to conclude the matter.

The joint supreme Israeli-Egyptian committee met for 3 hours today and discussed a series of issues. Positive conclusions were reached on all subjects except two; the more troublesome issues: A) demarcation of the border in the Rafah area so as not to divide the town and leave Egyptian residents on Israel's territory, on the one hand, and Palestinians on the Egyptian side, on the other; and B) demarcation of the border in the Elat area.

The conclusions reached include the sale to Egypt of equipment and infrastructure which will remain in southern Sinai for over $16 million, opening to truck traffic of the central Sinai axis -- the Nizzana-Ismailia axis which will pass through the tunnel under the Suez Canal -- after the Sinai withdrawal, permitting the anchorage at Sharm ash-Shayhy -- and at Sharm ash-Shaykh only -- of boats of Israeli divers, and giving renewed permission for the landing at the 'Ezyon airfield of charter planes excluding Israeli planes heading for Elat.

Tomorrow, a joint statement will be released on all conclusions achieved during Sharon's talks in Egypt.

Further Details

TA181753 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 18 Jan 82

[Text] This evening the supreme joint Israeli-Egyptian committee for arranging matters connected with the normalization in the relations between Israel and Egypt met in Cairo to discuss the international border, before the completion of the Sinai withdrawal. The delegations are headed by Minister of Defense Ari'el Sharon and Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali. At this morning's meeting progress was achieved on most of the issues put forward for discussion. Our Cairo correspondent Shim'on Schiffer has reported to us from there:

[Schiffer] The Egyptian approach to most of the issues raised by the Israeli delegation in the talks was generous. No problems, [last two words in English]. Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali was in the habit of saying, no problems. And so decisions were reaffirmed about the possibility that Israeli planes should land in the airfields 'Etzyon, near Elat, St Catherine's and Ofira. Trucks from Israel will carry goods along Egyptian roads and holidaymakers in boats will be allowed to go to Ofira. Mail will be carried by land and the Egyptians will pay for the infrastructure equipment that will be left in southern Sinai. And, as we said: No problems. The Israeli approach was presented by Ari'el Sharon, who said that characteristics of the peace between the two countries should be regarded as being a movement of people from place to place, between the two countries, without obstacles. The intention is to create a situation of open borders. However, there are several obstacles -- issues not yet agreed upon, for example, the determination of the border in Rafah and the Elat region. The Israeli representatives were helped by aerial photographs and maps to illustrate their claims. Rafah is divided according to the map that determines the border line. Families will remain without their property, their land and their houses if the parties involved act in accordance with the map that represents the basis for the determination of the border points in the area. The defense minister said that a solution must be found that will not harm the refugees living in Rafah and who have already twice in the past remained without their homes. For this purpose, a joint committee was established that will go to Rafah this coming week to work out conclusions.

As for deciding on the border point in the Elat area, the argument between Israel and Egypt is one of principle. In accordance with what measuring tools are they drawing out the international border in this issue? The map is from 1906. Altogether, it may be said that 91 border points have already been marked with the full agreement of the sides, there is a dispute over 16 points. It seems that in the atmosphere in which the talks are being conducted, all the issues will be agreed upon in the near future and already tomorrow a joint Israeli-Egyptian statement will be issued about the determination of the arrangements concerning the international border from this April.

SHAMIR CLAIMS EGYPTIANS CHANGED AUTONOMY WORDING

TA181517 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Jan 82

[Text] Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said today that the Egyptians had changed their wording on the question of autonomy. Minister Sharon pointed out that, according to the Egyptians' new formulations, autonomy should not only be acceptable to the partners to the agreement, but also to the Palestinian Arabs.

Our correspondent Razi Barqay reports that the foreign minister stressed that this change was unacceptable both to Israel and the United States.

On the question of voting rights for the Arabs of east Jerusalem, Shamir said that, in Israel's view, the issue does not belong to the matter of autonomy because there is no connection between Jerusalem and the autonomy negotiations. Minister Shamir made the remarks at a meeting of the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee.

Further Details

TA181635 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 18 Jan 82

[Report by Knesset correspondent Gil'ad Mishori]

[Text] There is a change for the worse in the Egyptian position on autonomy, and as a result the chances of achieving an agreement on autonomy by April 1982 have decreased. The foreign minister made these remarks to the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee. Mr Shamir told the committee members that in the past, when Menahem Begin had asked the late As-Sadat what would happen if the Palestinians did not accept the autonomy agreement the latter's reply was: Well, we will have done our duty. Today, Shamir explained, Egypt believes that the autonomy agreement should be acceptable not only to the negotiating parties but also to the Palestinians, and in a certain context, this term is parallel with the PLO position. This change, the foreign minister said, is not acceptable to either Israel or the United States. The foreign minister is afraid that after 26 April Egypt will change its attitude toward Israel and will toughen its autonomy positions.

Former Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin repeated his proposal of concession on the east Jerusalem Arabs' right of vote for the autonomy's council. The foreign minister told Rabin he better abandon his view on this matter since this harms the national concensus on Jerusalem. This is not the major question, Shamir said, adding that a concession, giving the east Jerusalem residents the right to vote, will not solve the problem of the grave differences on autonomy.

MK Mordekhay Gur made remarks which ran counter to his Alignment colleague Rabin. He said that no special efforts should be made regarding the autonomy since we will be unable to reach an agreement that will meet the minimal number of demands Israel could settle for.

ARENS CRITICAL OF MUBARAK AUTONOMY STANCE

TA190555 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 19 Jan 82

[Text] MK Moshe Arens, who will soon become Israel's ambassador to the United States, fears that there will not be a positive continuation of relations with Egypt after the Sinai withdrawal. In Arens' opinion, President Mubarak lacks the commitment to peace which characterized the late President as-Sadat. Arens told our correspondent, Razi Barqay, that the Egyptian president's demand that the autonomy agreement should be acceptable also to the Palestinians and to other Arab countries runs counter to the Camp David agreements.

Arens today ends his duties as the head of the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee.

NEW ISRAELI, EGYPTIAN CONSULATES TO BE ESTABLISHED

TA181923 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 18 Jan 82

[Text] Israel will open consulates in Alexandria and in Ofira, after the Sinai withdrawal. Egypt will open consulates in Elat and in Haifa. This is one of the decisions made in Cairo in the deliberations of the normalization committee dealing also with the completion of the Sinai withdrawal. Tomorrow Minister Ari'el Sharon and Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali will sign the minutes which will summarize the decisions.

Our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that in a month an Egyptian delegation will arrive to examine the buildings slated for the Egyptian Consulate in Elat.

An authoritative source on the Israeli delegation told our correspondent that the two delegations had reached agreement on all matters discussed. Subcommittees have been set up to conclude the border demarcation in the Rafah and Elat areas.

The Egyptian foreign minister promised normalization will be given renewed momentum in the future. The supreme committee dealing with this will reconvene, if necessary, in the middle of March.

Tommorow Minister Sharon will meet with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

MORNING PRESS COMMENTS ON AUTONOMY TALKS, MFO

TA190727 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0440 GMT 19 Jan 82

[Review of the morning press editorials]

[Excerpts] The Jerusalem POST says that in Israel's democracy one can find opponents to any government decision, including a peace treaty with the most important Arab neighbor. Nevertheless, one cannot assess statements made by Cairo ministers the same way as one would assess opposition expressed in a democratic regime. The current Sharon visit to Cairo may help improve the atmosphere Progress in the autonomy talks will be more helpful and useful but in view of the Israeli and Egyptian Government's present positions this seems to be an exaggerated desire.

DAVAR writes that just as in fairy tales the Israeli Government can now make quite a few demands of the Egyptian fairy. Egypt will comply with almost all requests in order not to allow Israeli personages, inside or outside the government, to seize on a negative answer and view it as another reason to cancel the evacuation of the remainder of the Sinai. The paper adds that the Egyptians accepted Sharon's views on issues to which they do not attach great importance. In contrast, they refrained from making any substantive concession. Such a concession is possible only in the sphere of the autonomy talks. If Egypt is capable of making a concession in this context this will be done only in return for a parallel Israeli concession. Such a development may come about in a tripartite, Begin-Reagan-Mubarak summit. Minister Sharon cannot pay the price, Minister Shamir does not want to pay the price and President Mubarak can expect something on this issue perhaps only from Mr Begin.

HAMODI'A thinks it is doubtful whether there is a change to achieve an agreement on autonomy in the time left before the completion of the Sinai withdrawal. It is similarly doubtful whether Israel should express interest in a summit. A summit may prove an obstacle to Israel as was the case in Camp David where Mr Begin had to make more concessions than he had initially intended. Even if an agreement with Egypt is possible, it will not be valid and operational as long as it is not filled with substance. There are grounds for suspicion that Eygpt's demand that the autonomy agreement be acceptable to the Palestinians is part of the process -- expected after the Sinai withdrawal -- of Egypt returning to the bosom of the Arab world. A concession on this point will invite new demands and there is no telling where we may end.

HATZOFE writes that it should be clearly stated that Israel does not want the European countries' participation in the Sinai Multinational Force and Observers because of those countries' political stand concerning Israel's status in the Middle East.

MA'ARIV: U.S. DISILLUSIONED WITH SAUDI POLICY

TA181036 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 18 Jan 82 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Ilan Kfir]

[Text] The United States is disillusioned with Saudi Arabia's Middle East policy and particularly with its efforts to draw the Egyptians "back to the Arab fold after April 1982." This was learned in Jerusalem during Secretary Haig's visit to the region.

Leading figures in the U.S. entourage voiced disapproval with what they termed Saudi efforts "to make eyes at the Soviet Union through PLO mediation."

It emerges that the United States suspects that Saudi Arabia is trying to persuade President Mubarak to cut himself off from the late President as-Sadat's policy lines and to adopt an An-Nasir-like policy of drawing closer to the Arab world and strengthening ties with the Third World.

As for the role the Saudis played in the Lebanese crisis, it was learned that the United States is currently inclined to accept Israel's stand, namely that the terrorists did not agree to the cease-fire because of Saudi pressure but because of their own desperate conditions on the front.

DAVAR REPORTS STATE BUDGET DETAILS 18 JAN

TA181408 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 18 Jan 82 p 3

[Report by the economic affairs correspondent in Jerusalem]

[Text] The state budget for next year will be 4 to 5 percent higher, in real terms, than the current budget, despite the cuts the treasury plans to effect on government ministry budgets.

Together with the supplementary budget that will be submitted toward the end of the current fiscal year, the state budget for this year will reach 240 billion shekels. The planned budget for next year will reach 250 billion shekels in this year's prices and approximately 500 billion shekels in 1982 prices.

The reason for the real increase in the budget for next year lies with those budget items over which the treasury has no control, among them increased internal debts the Cabinet has to defray, redeeming bonds and paying the compensation to the Yamit evacuees. Nor can the Finance Ministry cut the defense budget which, as agreed last year, will be frozen at its current rate of 36.5 billion shekels for the next 4 years (this applies to expenditure in local currency only).

Parallel with the predicted growth of government spending, the Finance Ministry plans to increase state revenue so as not to increase the government budget deficit. It will increase its income from taxation by raising the value added tax from 12 to 15 percent and similarly plans to abolish tax exemptions and relief -- through legislating an amendment to the inflationary taxation bill -- a move that will bring in billions of shekels from the business sector. It also intends to increase the prices of subsidized goods at rates higher than the increase of the overall index and thus decrease subsidies from the current rate of 80 to 100 percent down to only 25 to 40 percent.

In the field of pay, the treasury wants to maintain the real wages, which have increased by 10 percent this year, next year as well. It therefore proposes a cost of living increment that will be in the vicinity of 70 to 100 percent in accordance with the rate of price hikes in the market. The erosion of the wages will be examined semiannually and will be compensated for.

BRIEFS

TRADE AGREEMENT WITH CANADA -- Israeli companies will be allowed to issue tenders to the Canadian Government, including the National Defense Ministry, said Canadian Industry, Trade and Commerce Minister Herbert Gray upon the completion of his talks with Israeli Industry and Commerce Minister Gid'on Pat as part of the joint Israeli-Canadian committee talks. The Canadian minister also reported that a tender is currently being issued for equipment to be installed in the Canadian Navy's frigates, and said that Israeli companies could submit their bids. Mr Pat asked his Canadian counterpart for Canada to purchase goods in Israel as part of the agreement on mutual purchases in return for Israel procurements worth $200 million of industrial equipment. [Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Jan 82 p 5 TA]

SUBSIDIES BUDGET INCREASE -- The Knesset Finance Committee yesterday approved the Finance Ministry's request to add 460.5 million shekels to the subsidies budget. The amount earlier allocated to the subsidies budget has already been totally spent. [Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 8 Jan 82 pp 1, 2 TA]

SHEKEL DEVALUED -- The shekel's devaluation against the dollar yesterday was by 0.1 shekel and the new dollar's exchange rate is 16.02 shekels per dollar. During the past week the shekel was devalued by 1.1 percent against the dollar and the English pound, by 0.9 percent against the German mark and by 0.7 percent against the Japanese yen. [Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 8 Jan 82 p 1 TA]

ALGERIA

AL-QADHDHAFI ARRIVES 18 JAN, HEADS DELEGATION

LD181726 Algiers APS in Arabic 1645 GMT 18 Jan 82

[Text] Algiers, 18 Jan (APS) -- The leader of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah revolution, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, arrived in Algiers at 1500 today at the head of a delegation. He was welcomed on arrival by the FLN Secretary General and President Chadli Bendjedid.

Makes Statement

LD181846 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Jan 82

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution arrived at Houari Boumediene Airport at 1500 this afternoon for a business unionist visit to the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria. The brother leader was welcomed on his arrival at the airport by the brother president, Chadli Bendjedid, president and FLN secretary general, who embraced him warmly. Also taking part in welcoming the leader were the brothers: Rabah Bitat, member of the Political Bureau and president of the National People's Assembly; Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Political Bureau and official in charge of the Permanent Secretariat of the FLN Central Committee; heads of committees and sections of the FLN Central Committee; members of the Algerian Government; the Algerian foreign minister and member of the Political Bureau and members of the Arab Libyan Fraternity Bureau in Algeria.

The brother leader made a statement to journalists at the airport, in which he said: I feel that my visit is not being made to a foreign country nor is it bound by particular protocol ties. Our encounters are somehow revolutionary and in every encounter we try to take a step forward on the road to the unity and liberation of our nation and to inflict a decisive defeat on the enemies. We now feel that the time has come to take practical measures toward these objectives because the enemy has overstepped all limits and now constitutes a real danger to the existence of the divided and dispersed Arab nation.

Asked to comment in his capacity as teadfastness and onfrontation ront chairman on the step taken by Syria in establishing close cooperation with the Soviet Union, the brother leader replied: Syria should now establish a strategic cooperation with the Soviet Union. As a matter of fact, in a telegram I sent out to the Arab presidents, I issued a warning. I told them that the Arab revolutionaries have decided to make a grave decision and that if the Arab states are fated to sink, well, they will sink because of a decision made by us and not a decision made by our enemies. And for this reason, and in the face of the Israeli-American strategic alliance, I now urge Syria to set up such a strategic cooperation. We are going to carry out the warning issued to the Arab forces still linked with the camp hostile to the Arab nation and still financing this camp and supplying it with the means by which the Arab nation and Syria are being fought. There will be a first step followed by other steps if the situation remains as it is now.

Talks Begin

LD182340 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 18 Jan 82

[Excerpt] Algerian-Libyan political talks began yesterday [18 January] evening at the (Moncada) resthouse with a private meeting between Chadli Bendjedid, president republic and FLN general secretary, and Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution.

LIBYA

PERMANENT SECRETARIAT ISSUES STATEMENT

LD181816 Tripoli JANA in English 1743 GMT 18 Jan 82

[Subsection numbers as received]

[Text] Tripoli, 18 Jan (JANA) -- The Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress issued the final statement at the end of its first meeting of 1982 yesterday.

The Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress held its first meeting of 1982 in Tripoli between 14-17 January to review:

-- The current Arab and international political situation;
-- Organizational affairs;
-- Evaluating the previous period of 1981;
-- Developing the Permanent Secretariat;
-- Reviewing the secretariat's 1982 budget;
-- To study the implementation of the secretariat's 1982 activities.

The following documents were also issued at the end of the meeting:

-- A political statement
-- Organizational measures
-- A final statement

The statement reads as follows:

Firstly, the escalation of the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary challenges to the Arab masses were characterised by the following:

1 -- The intensification of the U.S. imperialist military presence in the Arab world, which is aimed at surrounding the Arab masses and supporting the local reactionary regimes especially after the execution of traitor As-Sadat.

2 -- The continuous reactionary oppressive measures against the masses uprising, such as the uprising in Sudan against the fascist reactionary regime there.

3 -- The escalation of the Zionist [words indistinct] the Palestinian revolution and the oppression against Palestinian masses inside the occupied territories.

4 -- The strengthening of the strategic alliance between the U.S.A. and the Zionist entity against the Arab nation which led to the annexation of the occupied Golan Heights, a move that was considered a challenge to world conventions.

5 -- The escalation of the U.S. threats and provocations against the Libyan people and their leadership. Such threats have come to the point of imposing economic sanctions against the Jamahiriyah in an attempt to paralyse her from pursuing her revolutionary efforts and support for freedom causes in the Arab world, Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Secondly, as a counter action to the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary challenges, the Permanent Secretariat issued the following resolution, stressing the need for:

1 -- Consolidation of armed struggle and opening the door widely for Arab masses' capabilities for the national cause.

2 -- Exposing the reactionary government pacts and suspicious links with U.S. imperialism.

3 -- Confrontation with U.S. imperialism should be organised by effectively boycotting the U.S.A. and dealing a blow to U.S. interests in the area. This can be done by:

-- Urging the Arab masses to boycott U.S. products.

-- Urging them to boycott the U.S. air and maritime means of transport.

-- Mobilising the Arab masses to urge their governments to impose strict official political and economic boycott and to withdraw Arab deposits from U.S. banks.

[Words indistinct] urging the Arab masses to intensify these efforts in order to foil the Camp David accords and any other possible capitulatory initiatives.

5 -- To support the uprisings of the Palestinian Arab people in occupied Palestine and consolidate the steadfastness of the Syrian masses in the Golan Heights, because these represent popular opposition to the Zionist enemy's presence and all schemes aimed to win recognition for it.

6 -- To support the Sudanese people's uprising which should be bolstered by political and mass media action to bring the downfall of the hireling Numayri regime. This calls for the speedy implementation of the Permanent Secretariat resolution to try Numayri before an Arab people's court for treason against the Arab nation and for acting as an agent of international imperialism.

7 -- To support the armed people's uprisings in Somalia and Oman and intensify political and media mobilization to achieve further solidarity amongst the people which would be capable of countering Arab reaction and fascism and international imperialism.

8 -- To back Syria's steadfastness under its militant leadership in countering reactionary Zionist and imperialist conspiracies, especially as Syria is considered to be the forefront [word indistinct] base confronting the Zionist enemy.

-- To bolster Syria's alliance with the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese National Movement.

9 -- To consolidate the Palestinian revolution and its armed resistance under the leadership of the PLO and intensify its confrontation with the Zionist enemy.

10 -- To support the Lebanese Arab people and their national movement in preserving Lebanon's unity and Arab character and thus achieve solidarity with the Palestinian revolution's struggle and Syria, and resist the Zionist enemy's attempts to isolate south Lebanon and turn it into a Zionist entity.

11 -- To promote solidarity with the Libyan Arab people to confront U.S. imperialist conspiracy against them.

-- To expose the reactionary U.S. alliance aimed at isolating the Jamahiriyah economically, and U.S. provocations against the Great al-Fateh Revolution and its revolutionary leadership.

12 -- To speed up the merger between Syria and the Jamahiriyah into a united jamahiri (of the masses), democratic and progressive state.

-- To speed up the implementation of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's recommendation at the final session of the G.P.C. regarding the setting up of a union including Syria, the Jamahiriyah and Algeria which would be a preliminary step towards a comprehensive unity to counter imperialism, Zionism and reaction.

13 -- To urge the conclusion of union between the two Yemens on a progressive basis which would also represent mobilization of national forces for a united Arab homeland.

14 -- The Permanent Secretariat calls on all factions of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front to consolidate and intensify their political and military activities in wars which would defeat imperialism, Zionism and reaction, insure national mobiiization of the national struggle and promote the Arab position.

Appeals To Boycott U.S.

LD181826 Tripoli JANA in English 1822 GMT 18 Jan 82

[Text] Tripoli, 18 Jan (JANA) -- The Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress, APC, appealed at the end of its first meeting 1982, in Tripoli yesterday to the Arab masses:

To the Arab masses, the U.S. imperialist attack against the Arab (?nation has) become increasingly (?vicious) and the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance has become stronger these days. Furthermore, the U.S.A. opposed the world community on (?imposing) any sanctions against Israel (?which) continues to expand by usurping more Arab lands.

The hostile U.S. attitude towards the Arabs made the secretariat appeal to the Arab masses to:

-- Boycott U.S. products, ships, [words indistinct] cars, companies and banks.

-- Boycott U.S.A. she is the only biggest enemy of the Arabs. The U.S. supplies the Zionist enemy with weapons, money, and men to occupy more Arab lands and to annex the occupied Golan Heights, (?strike at) the Lebanon and kill our children, men, women and elderly people, thousands of them every morning.

-- Boycott America...which uses the interests on our oil revenue to build military bases in our lands in Sinai, Arab Gulf, [words indistinct] sea, Oman, Bahrain, Sudan and Somalia.

-- Boycott America...which stands firmly behind the Zionist enemy who carried out daily raids against the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories.

-- Boycott America...the biggest enemy to our social [words indistinct]

-- Boycott America...this is the [words indistinct] the struggle imperialism and Zionism.

-- Boycott America...in defence of our dignity, and revolutionary heritage and future.

SUDAN

VICE PRESIDENT ADDRESSES POLITICAL LEADERS

JN191125 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1050 GMT 19 Jan 82

[Text] Khartoum, 19 Jan (SUNA) -- First Vice President Gen 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil yesterday talked to political and executive leaders about what President Numayri had submitted to them on Sunday. The first vice president said: What was submitted to us by President Numayri puts on us an historical and national responsibility. He expressed the hope that the conferees frankly and clearly will discuss all the Sudanese people's aspirations so that the present stage will be surmounted. He stressed the need to place the public welfare above all personal interests so that some of the recommendations submitted by President Numayri can be implemented and help overcome the present stage.

He suggested that the conferees discuss in depth the recent student demonstrations, which also included other sectors of the community. He asked what had caused these demonstrations and who had been responsible for them as well as those taking part in them. He also asked about their political dimensions and the solution to be adopted so that they will not be repeated. He also asked about the role of the political organization in this regard so that a formula acceptable to the majority of the Sudanese people can be reached.

The conferees will continue their meeting at the friendship hall in Khartoum this morning.

SOUTHERN REGION OFFICIAL EXPLAINS SUMMONING

JN141107 Khartoum, SUNA in Arabic 1235 GMT 14 Jan 82

[Text] Juba, 14 Jan (SUNA) -- Staff Maj Gen Qasam Allah 'Abdallah Rasas, chief of the transitional higher executive council of the southern region, told the southern politicians summoned to Khartoum, who returned to Juba, that their summoning had no relationship whatsoever with their opinions on whether to divide the southern region. Rasas said they were summoned because of the suspicion with which the organization they formed was regarded since this organization contravenes legitimacy in the state.

Rasas asserted this during his meeting with these politicians the day before yesterday.

TUNISIA

MZALI RETURNS FROM PARIS; BRIEFED BOURGUIBA

LD160718 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 16 Jan 82

[Text] Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali returned to Tunis last night at the end of a working visit to Paris, during which he had talks with President Francois Mitterrand on a number of issues of common interest.

Mohamed Mzali yesterday also met with President Habib Bourguiba in Paris and briefed him on his talks with the French president.

President Departs for U.S.

NC171040 Paris AFP in English 1028 GMT 17 Jan 82

[Text] Paris, 17 Jan (AFP) -- Ailing Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba, 79, left here today for medical treatment in the United States.

President Bourguiba, who complains of gum and spinal trouble, and pain in the right hand, spent two days in Paris consulting doctors.

ETHIOPIA

TALKS HELD WITH GDR DELEGATION, AGREEMENT

Delegation Arrives 12 Jan

EA122102 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 12 Jan 82

[Excerpt] Comrade Margot Honecker, GDR Socialist Unity Party Central Committee member and education minister, arrived in Addis Ababa this evening on a 6-day visit to socialist Ethiopia. On arrival in Addis Ababa, leading an eight-man GDR education delegation, Comrade Margot Honecker was welcomed by Comrade Goshu Wolde, education minister and Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia Central Committee member. During her stay in Ethiopia, Comrade Margot Honecker will hold talks with Comrade Goshu and inspect various educational facilities and public organizations.

Joint Talks held

EA132054 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1900 GMT 13 Jan 82

[Text] Comrade Margot Honecker, SED Central Committee member and GDR minister of education, and Comrade Goshu Wolde, minister of education and COPWE Central Committee member, have held talks on relations between the two countries in the field of education.

During the talks, which were held at the assembly hall of the Ministry of education, Comrade Goshu Wolde briefed Comrade Margot Honecker and members of her delegation on the general content of education in postrevolutionary Ethiopia and on future plans to develop education in relation to the country's needs. Comrade Margot Honecker explained the general content and policy of education in her country.

Education Agreement Signed

EA171736 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1000 GMT 17 Jan 82

[Text] Socialist Ethiopia and the GDR, renewing agreements entered into earlier, this morning signed an agreement on education cooperation for the year 1983-84.

The agreement was signed at a ceremony held at Bole international airport VIP lounge by Comrade Goshu Wolde, minister of education and Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia Central Committee member, for Ethiopia, and Comrade Margot Honecker, Socialist Unity Party Central Committee member and GDR education minister, for her country.

According to the cooperation agreement, the GDR will assist socialist Ethiopia's efforts in the expansion and general development of education in the country by providing experts and teachers, the training of physical education teachers and educationalists from the Education Ministry main headquarters and will also supply teaching materials.

Comrade Margot Honecker left for her country after signing the agreement, which was at the end of her week-long visit to socialist Ethiopia.

SOMALIA

CORRIERE DELLA SERA INTERVIEWS PRESIDENT BARRE

AU061600 Rome ANSA in English 1544 GMT 6 Jan 82

[Text] Milan, 6 Jan (ANSA) -- The situation in the horn of Africa is "explosive," but the west is not aware of it, despite the "mortal threat" that the whole zone will fall under Soviet control, Somali President Siad Barre said here today in an interview published by the Milanese daily, CORRIERE DELLA SERA.

In other points, Barre, who granted the interview while on a just-concluded private visit to Italy, said that Somalia is ready to settle its disputes with Ethiopia, provided its defense needs are satisfied.

Published with the title, "Somalia Asks the West for Help so as not to Fall into Soviet Hands," the interview claimed that Somalia is continually bombarded by Ethiopian planes flown by Soviet and Cuban pilots without having any adequate defenses.

At the same time, the country is housing about two and a half million refugees from Ogaden, the territory disputed by Ethiopia and Somalia, forming an "unbearable burden" for Somali finances, Barre said.

On the Middle East and the Camp David agreements of September 1978, Barre voiced his support for the creation of a Palestinian homeland, for the agreements themselves, and for the recent eight-point peace plan advanced by Saudi Arabia's Prince Fahd.

According to the Somali leader, the Soviet Union's interest is to "keep the Palestinian problem open," because it is staking its money on "destabilization and confusion everywhere."

"Now (Moscow) has understood that its man in Africa is (Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi), because he creates confusion and instability everywhere," Barre asserted.

Barre was also pessimistic about the general future of the Middle East and Africa.

"I see (the future) as very dark until the West decides to play a more active role in seeking solutions and coming down with decision on the side of its friends," he said.

He added that the Arab summit in Fes last November "failed for this reason as well. The West's friends, who were ready to approve the Fahd plan, were certainly in a majority, but the others, with the Soviet Union behind them, shouted louder and so the summit was not held."

"Much the same thing happens at all the African conferences," Barre claimed. "The three or four governments used by Moscow as tools make more fuss so the world ends up by getting a false idea of Africa's problems."

The result, so Barre claimed, is that the other African governments "feel insecure, get a false idea of the West, and knuckle under to the pressures of those who fish in dirty waters."

CHAD

GOUKOUNI CONFIRMS FAN CAPTURE OF FAYA-LARGEAU

AB190804 Paris AFP in English 0740 GMT 19 Jan 81

[Text] Ndjamena, 19 Jan (AFP) -- Chadian President Goukouni Oueddei confirmed at the weekend that the rebel FAN of former Defence Minister Hissein Habre had captured the northern provincial capital of Faya-Largeau.

In an interview with Swedish radio broadcast today Mr Goukouni said the truth cannot be concealed, but he noted that Ndjamena itself had been captured by the FAN in March 1980 before resorting to government control. The president, who has previously been heavily critical of the OAU peacekeeping force in Chad, expressed the fear that the forces six month mandate might expire before order returned to Chad. If this happened, President Goukouni said, with the help of our friends we will recover to reverse the situation, whatever the position of the OAU. The rebellion which we believed had disappeared forever from the political scene, had returned when the Libyan troops had departed from Chad at his own request, the president said. He added: We put our hopes in the OAU. But the reality is that the rebels occupy the ground and the OAU looks on. However, the president said he himself had not lost hope. The few ephemeral victories of the rebels do not worry us beyond measure, he added. We are waiting to see how far the OAU can respect its engagements. While the government maintained its general amnesty for FAN supporters who had fled the country it would never negotiate with Mr Habre, President Goukouni said. However analysts in Yaounde, Cameroon, said the fall of Faya-Largeau was a severe blow to President Goukouni's government. The FAN already control eastern Chad and part of the centre and the main question in Ndjamena is whether they will now attempt to attack the capital itself.

(Faya-Largeau, capital of the province of Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti, is a key strategic position which was held by government troops since November 1980, when they forced the FAN out and installed a Libyan garrison. Ironically Zairian troops of the OAU force were originally destined for Faya-Largeau when they were switched to the central town of Ati to block the FAN's westward drive on Ndjamena. In response the FAN evidently decided to spread their activities further to the north, but it was not known if there was any fighting around Faya-Largeau before it fell.)

ZAIRE

FRENCH GENERAL MENTIONS INCREASED MILITARY AID

AB161412 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1310 GMT 16 Jan 82

[Excerpt] Kinshasa, 16 Jan (AZAP) -- A new impetus will be given to French-Zairian military cooperation by improving its quality. To this end, France will increase its financial aid.

This was disclosed to newsmen by General Gilard, head of the military mission at the French Ministry for Cooperation, following the audience granted him on Saturday at the Tshatshi Camp by the MPR founding president and president of the republic, citizen Mobutu Sese Seko. General Gilard, who has just completed an inspection visit with French military assistants in Zaire, expressed satisfaction over their working conditions as well as the atmosphere of detente and perfect cooperation between the French officers and their Zairian counterparts. He pointed out that he reported his mission's conclusions to the guide, Mobutu Sese Seko. He particularly stressed efforts to solve the remaining problems with a view to achieving a qualitative and quantitative French-Zairian military cooperation.

Presently, 128 senior and junior officers of the French Army are working in the Zairian Armed Forces. They are charged with the training of paratroopers, assistance to the fleet of Mirage aircraft, the 31st Armored Brigade and the (?military training) school in Mbanza-Ngungu.

GHANA

LIBYA GIVES MORE AID, TO REOPEN PEOPLE'S BUREAU

AB181404 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 18 Jan 82

[Text] For the second time in a week, Libya has given aid to Ghana. The aid comprises 30 tons of food ration and 20 tons of drugs.

Presenting the aid this morning, a member of the Libyan delegation, Abdallah Boudegian, said the aid is from the people of Libya to the people of Ghana, and not on governmental level. He said Africa's economic problems must be solved by Africans. For this reason, his country does not give chance to imperialism to infiltrate their lives. Mr Abdallah Boudegian said Libya's friendship is extended to all of Africa, and not to Ghana alone. He hoped that Africa would be a united force and be for Africans. Libya, he said, notes that Ghana's revolution is a force in Africa to destroy imperialism. And because the revolution is for the masses which is similar to that in Libya, the people of Libya will support it. Mr Boudegian hoped Ghanaians would prove to the outside world that they have the skill to develop their country.

The gift was received by a representative of the people's army. Last Monday, Libya gave Ghana 15 tons of food aid made up of rice, sugar, flour, milk and tinned tuna.

Meanwhile, a four-man people's committee arrived in Accra this morning from Tripoli to reopen Libya's People's Bureau.

FORMER LIMANN OFFICIAL SAYS MORE THAN 700 KILLED

AB181652 Paris AFP in French 1533 GMT 18 Jan 82

[Text] Lagos, 18 Jan (AFP) -- More than 700 persons have been killed since the coup d'etat which brought Flight Lt Jerry Rawlings to power on 31 December in Accra, an official of the former government of President Hilla Limann said today in Lagos.

Those dead were not only the partisans of the new regime and their opponents killed during the fighting but also civilians who were assassinated in cold blood, according to this official, who says the reports are from reliable witnesses who have reached Nigeria.

More than 100 members of the former army intelligence service were executed, the same source adds, simply because they were considered potentially dangerous. Women were executed in front of their families, disclosed this refugee, who stated however that most of the executions were carried out secretly inside Burma Camp, Accra's main barracks.

The team of Ghana's new strongman is trying not to eliminate well-known personalities in order to avoid publicity, the former Ghanaian official pointed out. Several persons have been assassinated for violating the curfew, he added.

The morgue and Accra hospital are full and bodies are now being sent to the psychiatric hospital, said this official, who adds that the bodies are now piled on the floor for lack of space.

An extermination squad formed of persons imprisoned under the Limann government has been set up to execute all those blacklisted, he added.

The Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC] is only a front which receives its orders from an armed forces committee headed by General Quainoo, chief of staff, the same source says. A Libyan aircraft carrying arms and ammunitions has arrived in Accra, and is still there, with antiaircraft equipment in case of foreign intervention against the new Ghanian regime.

The population is afraid and stays put. The farmers are refusing to sell their produce at the prices set by the new government and, in any case, they cannot supply Accra because of the curfew, the Ghanaian added.

More than 50 officials of the Limann government are in exile in Lome and Abidjan, he indicated, adding that Addai Amoaku, one of the top leaders of Limann's party, the People's National Party, was executed for urging the population not to support Jerry Rawlings.

Control by Libya -- which has sent, among others, a few military personnel for the anti-aircraft equipment -- is not aimed only at Ghana but also at the neighboring countries, according to this refugee who feels that Togo and Ivory Coast are to be the next two victims of destabilization.

The tribal aspect of the coup d'etat is now having implications in Togo and Gilchrist Olympio, son of former Togolese President Sylvanus Olympio, was in Accra recently to consolidate the union of the Ewes (tribe in southeast Ghana and south Togo) who took over power in Accra and to which Jerry Rawlings belongs, he concluded.

AFP REPORTS 30 PRO-LIMANN SOLDIERS EXECUTED

AB181900 Paris AFP in French 1841 GMT 18 Jan 82

[Text] Abidjan, 18 Jan (AFP) -- About 30 officers, noncommissioned officers and men of the Ghanaian Army favorable to former President Hilla Limann have been executed by the order of the new authorities in Ghana since the coup d'etat, informed sources announced in Abidjan on Monday. According to the same sources, the total number of casualties claimed by the fighting during the takeover on 31 December by Flight Lt Jerry Rawlings is reportedly estimated at about 50 killed, 50 seriously injured and 200 slightly wounded.

ATIM: PNDC DOES NOT INTEND TO USE FORCE

AB182229 Accra Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 18 Jan 82

[Text] The PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] does not intend to use force to achieve the objectives of the revolution. The revolution is meant for the people and it will not be in their interest if any one goes contrary to it.

Addressing representatives of several market associations at Burma hall in Accra today, a member of the PNDC, Mr Chris Atim, noted that every human being has a sense of justice and is, therefore, expected to use it for the benefit of the country. He said despite the numerous problems facing individual Ghanaians, there is a national problem which should be solved first. And this can only be done through meaningful contributions from all Ghanaians. He warned that those who are out to sabotage the revolution will be brought back to their proper senses. Mr Chris Atim noted that disappearance of certain food items from the market, especially bread, and he again appealed to the traders to bring them out. He asked them to make their problems known to the PNDC for solutions to be found.

A representative of the Kenkey [food item made from maize] Sellers Association said members are prepared to increase the size of kenkey provided they get corn at controlled prices. She therefore appealed to the PNDC to help them obtain inputs for making kenkey.

BAR ASSOCIATION OPPOSES PEOPLE'S TRIBUNAL

AB180904 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 18 Jan 82

[Text] The Ghana Bar Association has expressed opposition to the Provisional National Defense Council's [PNDC] decision to establish people's tribunals to try certain offenses.

In a statement issued after an emergency meeting in Accra, the association said the existing legal system is adequate to take care of any crime committed by any citizen of Ghana. The statement noted that the present legal system is beset with technicalities because of misunderstanding of the procedure of offenses. If adequate investigation is conducted and proper preparation is made for the prosecution of offenses, the guilty cannot escape conviction. The Bar Association therefore suggested the streamlining and strengthening of the investigation machinery of the state. This can be done through the appointment of qualified persons for the prosecution of offenses before the established courts. The Bar Association endorsed the recent call by the association of a recognized professional body on the PNDC to form a national government. It suggested that such a government should comprise all identifiable groups within the community.

4 Jun Movement Reaction

AB190814 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 19 Jan 82

[Text] The Nungua branch of the June 4 movement has reacted to the statement issued by the Association of Recognized Professional Bodies and the Ghana Bar Association calling for the formation of a national government. In a statement issued yesterday, the movement described the statements of the two bodies as hypocritical and against the wishes of the people of this country. It said by the action of 31 December the privileged class, of which the Association of Professional Bodies and the Bar Association form part, has been overthrown forever. The movement stressed that the old system under which the people's lot had been poverty, hunger and misery must now be replaced by a new one with equal opportunities for all. The movement said it believed that the people's defense committees would enable the people to participate in the decision-making process, thus placing power in the hands of the people.

NUNOO-MENSAH EXPLAINS JUBILEE CANCELLATION

AB181852 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 18 Jan 82

[Text] The chief of defense staff and member of the Provisional National Defense Council (PNDC), Brig Nunoo-Mensah, has explained that the silver jubilee of the country's independence should be canceled because of the state of the economy. This is also because there are more pressing areas for which funds are urgently needed to cater for certain essential services. Addressing a meeting of principal secretaries, manufacturers, textile printers and organizations connected with the jubilee celebration in Accra today, Brig Nunoo-Mensah said the PNDC did not take the decision in their own personal interest, but in the interest of the entire nation. The chief of defense staff said despite the cancellation of the celebration, certain projects and souvenirs for which letters of credit had been opened would be fully honored.

LIBERIA

DOE REEMPHASIZES BAN ON STUDENT POLITICAL ACTS

AB182103 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1900 GMT 18 Jan 82

[Text] The Liberian head of state, CIC [Commander in Chief] Samuel Kanyon Doe, has reemphasized the PRC [People's Redemption Council] government's determination to ensure the absence of political activities in our schools. CIC Doe said the decision was taken purely in the interest of giving students the opportunity to carefully reflect on their future rather than indulging in politics. He stressed that the decision does not stop students from engaging in projects that would benefit themselves or their schools. CIC Doe further stressed that the student organizations are designed primarily to seek the welfare of their members as far as activities are concerned. He noted that, however, political pressure groups and self politicians have the tendency of extending their ambitions through student organizations.

The Liberian leader, in a special release from the executive mansion, said he has continued to receive numerous appeals from students to rescind this decision. However, he noted that before making the pronouncement, the council carefully studied the situation in consideration of the current ban on political activities throughout the country. The liberian leader indicated that the concern of the council, which should also attract students' attention, is the need to provide employment opportunities for the large number of students graduating each year from high school and college. The CIC also said the government is desirous of establishing junior colleges in the countries to help prevent the influx of students from the rural areas. However, he noted that solutions to these pressing problems cannot be found if students continued to engage in actions that would detract from the attainment of these goals. CIC Doe noted that his government is devoted to improving the conditions of students and that nothing would deter this determination. The commander in chief noted that the concern of students should be their adjustment to society after completing their studies. He said students should help in maintaining a stable and peaceful atmosphere and give the government the opportunity to operate the affairs of the nation without unnecessary disruption. The head of state noted the very good relations which have always existed between the government and the students and stressed that the action by the council in suspending all political activities should not disrupt such a relationship. However, CIC Doe indicated that the council's decisions still stand.

PODIER DENIES CONSPIRING AGAINST GOVERNMENT

AB182117 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1900 GMT 18 Jan 82

[Text] The vice head of state and cochairman of the PRC [People's Redemption Council] government, Maj Gen J. Nicholas Podier, has emphatically stated that he has not and will never conspire with any person or group of persons to overthrow the PRC government, which he has helped to bring to power for the redemption of the suffering masses of the Liberian people.

Vice Head of State Podier was speaking today in his capitol office in the wake of rumors last week that he had conspired with some members of the PRC to overthrow the PRC government. I.J. Nicholas Podier Junior, vice head of state of the Republic of Liberia and cochairman of the PRC, have not and will never conspire with any person or persons to overthrow the people's government of the PRC of the Republic of Liberia, he has cited. He warned military and security personnel as well as civilians against indulging in information and attempts to embarrass and catigate citizens' character. He said what happened recently was killing the man slowly with the mouth and creating disunity and mutiny among men who have sacrificed their lives to bring relief to the oppressed brothers and sisters. Vice Head of State Podier assured the Liberian people of his continued commitment to use all of his energy to work consistently in the interest of the Liberian masses. General Podier used the occasion to call upon all members of the PRC to show discipline, restraint and unqeustionable commitment to the building of a society in the interest of all Liberaisn. Since the night of April 12, 1980, Vice Head of State Podier said, the people of this country who we have redeemed expect us members of this council to participate fully in finding solutions to our national problems. He said council members and other officials of government must therefore distinguish themselves by their total commitment to change in the interests of all sectors of the Liberian people. This is the time for us to tighten our belts and work harder. We should avoid [words indistinct] officials and the government with [words indistinct] with which many reactionaries treated the former government (?causing it) to fall, Podier said. He advised that now was the time when those in authority should take a critical and honest look at people who bring news to them against others to create enemies to make our popular revolution look bad in the eyes of our people.

ANGOLA

LUANDA REPORTS ON JORGE MEETINGS IN PARIS

AB181212 Luanda Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 18 Jan 82

[Text] The Angolan minister of external relations, Comrade Paulo Jorge, met in Paris over the weekend with French Minister of External Relations Claude Cheysson for talks on southern Africa. Comrade Jorge also met with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Chester Crocker to discuss proposals for a Namibian peace plan. Among other things, Comrade Jorge discussed developments in southern Africa and the prospects for its economy.

Paris and Washington are part of the so-called contact group involving itself in the independence question in Namibia and have worked out what they said were new proposals aimed at installing a puppet settlement in the territory illegally occupied by Pretoria in defiance of the United Nations.

COMOROS

PRESIDENT CALLS FINANCIAL SITUATION CATASTROPHIC

AB171004 Paris AFP in English 0951 GMT 17 Jan 82

[Text] Moroni, 17 Jan (AFP) -- Comoran President Ahmed Abdallah has called the financial situation in his Indian Ocean republic catastrophic and appealed for an end to corruption.

In a broadcast speech lasting more than an hour last night, he accused the states three regional governors of mismanaging their budgets by recruiting more staff and giving more grants than the country could afford. He also accused certain individuals in the customs and tax services of enriching themselves by diverting funds which should have been paid to the state.

President Abdallah called for cohesion, collaboration and protection of the assets of the state. At the same time, in what was seen here as a conciliatory gesture, he promised to pay the salaries of all officials who had had their pay suspended for up to six months for refusing to carry out government directives.

Observers said President Abdallah seemed anxious to launch a new policy of national renewal to safeguard the country's independence.

His speech followed an official visit to Tripoli and a private visit to Paris, during which he saw respectively Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and French Cooperation Minister Jean-Pierre Cot.

The trip to Libya was President Abdallah's first as head of state, though he was in Tripoli in 1974 when the Comoros still belonged to France. The visit -- which the president called very fruitful and satisfactory -- enabled the two governments to express their desire to further their existing cooperation and strengthen the place of Moslems in the world, observers said.

MADAGASCAR

NEW REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED

AB151532 Paris AFP in French 1356 GMT 15 Jan 82

[Text] Antananarivo, 15 Jan (AFP) -- Malagasy President Didier Ratsiraka Friday morning in Antananarivo announced the composition of the new Supreme Revolutionary Council and the new government, the fourth of the Second Democratic Republic of Madagascar proclaimed in 1975.

The prime minister, Col Desire Rakotoarijaona, appointed in 1977, maintains his position while two ministers, considered to be liberals -- Rakotovao Razakaboana (finance and planning) and Justin Rarivoson (economy and commerce) -- were dropped from the government. They are replaced respectively by Pascal Rakotomavo (for finance planning is now directly attached to the president's office) and Georges Solofoson, new minister of industry and commerce. These two men were formerly respectively director general of the Aro Insurance Company and civilian permanent undersecretary to President Ratsiraka.

In a clear desire to surround himself with trustworthy people and with men he had long known, President Ratsiraka appointed Joseph Bedo, former secretary general at the president's office, to head the Ministry of Transport, Food and Tourism, replacing Jean Bemananjara; and Nirina Andriamanerasoa, former deputy director general of the Aro Insurance Company, to head the Ministry of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform, replacing Pierre Simon.

Within the government, some transfers are also noted: Former minister of information and ideological orientation, Georges Ruphin, takes the portfolio of public administration, labor and civil service. He is repleaced by Bruno Rakotomavo, former minister of public works. Maj Victor Ramahatra, an army engineer, now becomes minister of public works.

Among the six ministers who were not maintained, four have been appointed members of the Supreme Revolutionary Council: Rakotovao Razakaboana, former minister of finance and planning; Pierre Simon, former minister rural development and agrarian reform; Celstin Radio, former minister of public administration, labor and civil service; and Georges Thomas Indrianjafy, former minister of justice.

Lastly, Charles Ravoajanahary, Gilbert Sambson who was appointed minister of justice and keeper of the seals and Robert Koto have been dropped from the Supreme Revolutionary Council.

The previous government was formed in August 1977 and had the same number of ministers.

According to observers, the reshuffle announced on Friday seems political and technical because of the very serious economic difficulties facing the country as well as the forthcoming presidential elections. In this regard, President Ratsiraka has already announced his intention to seek a new 7-year term of office.

Observers also estimate that since the prime minister, Colonel Rakotoarijaona, was retained, there should not be any significant change to modify the socialist evolution of the regime, even if some personalities, considered to be reactionary, have been eliminated in favor of technocrats and close aids of the head of state.

NAMIBIA

MUDGE CONFIDENT OF BEATING SWAPO IN ELECTIONS

LD191018 Johannesburg International Service in English 0300 GMT 19 Jan 82

[Text] The chairman of the Council of Ministers of South-West Africa/Namibia, Mr Dirk Mudge, says the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance is confident of beating SWAPO in internationally supervised elections in the territory. At a news conference in Windhoek, he said the only way to win a war of insurgency was to score a political victory. To do that, a party had to have the support of the majority of all the people in the country. Sectional politics would not win the day for the people of South-West Africa/Namibia. Instead, said Mr Mudge, solidarity had to be cemented among all population groups.

Mr Mudge said South-West Africa/Namibia should become independent as soon as possible, so that the government of the country could make its own decisions. Under the present system, this was not possible because the administrator general was a South African official and could not be expected to endorse the policy of any political party.

On the recent statements by the secretary general of the United Nations, Dr Perez de Cuellar, in which SWAPO was praised, Mr Mudge said it was inconceivable that he could express such views and still expect his special representative to be an arbitrator in a South-West African/Namibian election.

SOUTH AFRICA

OFFICIAL CRITICIZES UN CHIEF'S PRO-SWAPO REMARKS

LD161146 Johannesburg International Service in English 1100 GMT 16 Jan 82

[Text] The South African director general of foreign affairs, Dr Brand Fourie, says should pro-SWAPO statements by the new United Nations secretary general continue, this would have a bedevilling effect on the general course of the South-West African/Namibian settlement talks. Dr Fourie was interviewed by radio RSA in Johannesburg today after his South African delegation had returned from London where settlement talks were held with an American delegation. Asked when the Western contact group would return to southern Africa, Dr Fourie said that such a decision would probably be taken only after the Americans had consulted with the other four members of the contact group, Britain, France, West Germany and Canada. He said he would discuss the London talks with the South African foreign minister, Mr Roelof Botha, today and there would also be consultations with the internal parties of South-West Africa/Namibia.

Earlier this week a source in London reported that the talks had moved into the second phase of the Western initiative which concerns United Nations impartiality and the size, composition and deployment of the so-called UNTAG force which will be stationed in South-West Africa/Namibia during free elections and the run-up to independence. The signs were that the impartiality issue was developing into a major problem made [word indistinct] more crucial that the secretary general had praised SWAPO in his first public statement.

ZAMBIA

NUJOMA RETURNS TO LUSAKA FROM ZIMBABWE TALKS

CA151354 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 14 Jan 82

[Excerpt] The SWAPO president, Mr Sam Nujoma, returned to Lusaka last night from Salisbury after holding talks with Zimbabwean Government officials on Namibia. Mr Nujoma is visiting Zambia and Zimbabwe to brief Presidents Kaunda and Canaan Banana on the progress of the liberation war against the racist forces of the Pretoria regime.

ZIMBABWE

NKOMO ATTACKS MUGABE'S ONE-PARTY PLANS

AB181706 Paris AFP in English 1627 GMT 18 Jan 82

[Text] Salisbury, 18 Jan (AFP) -- Zimbabwe minority leader Joshua Nkomo made a scathing attack today on Prime Minister Robert Mugabe, breaking a one-year truce between their parties, calling into question Mr Mugabe's plans for a one-party state and casting a shadow on the future of the coalition government.

Mr Nkomo, visibly angered by Mr Mugabe's statements at the weekend that his Zimbabwe African National Union would rule forever, denied at a news conference that ZANU and his own Patriotic Front had plans to discuss a merger.

Mr Mugabe had told a rally in a Salisbury black township that such a meeting was planned in a week or two but Mr Nkomo said he had not been informed of it and accused Mr Mugabe of ordering him to come. We would like to see unity (between the rival parties), Mr Nkomo said "but we cannot unite kneeling to ZANU."

Mr Nkomo, who headed a united Zimbabwean nationalist movement until 1963 when ZANU broke away from his then-Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU), added, "I'm not going to join Zanu. I can never be (a member). I know what ZANU is. We worked together with Comrade Mugabe and he knows that I know."

Mr Mugabe was one of the ZAPU rebels who formed ZANU, claiming that Mr Nkomo's leadership was ineffective. The two groups later fought the guerrilla war under a loose alliance, but never unified politically and remained wary of each other.

Mr Nkomo's party mainly represents the minority Ndebele people of western Zimbabwe and has 20 seats in Parliament. Mr Mugabe's party, which is mostly Shona, has 57 seats. After winning independence elections in February 1980, ZANU invited the PF into the government, and Mr Nkomo's party currently has four men in the 23-member cabinet.

A crisis erupted in January 1981 when Mr Mugabe moved Mr Nkomo out of the important home affairs (interior) post, and the PF leader refused the Public Service Ministry offered him. The parties' Central Committees met to defuse the situation, and Mr Nkomo later agreed to become minister without portfolio.

The PF leader helped defuse the ZANU versus PF factional violence that broke out in the western city of Bulawayo last February, claiming hundreds of lives, and he had been publicly very circumspect in his statements about Mr Mugabe and his party since then. But today Mr Nkomo said he was hurt... disappointed... baffled by Mr Mugabe's latest statements. I am one person who believes in cooperation, but when people make wild statements, that's a different matter, he said.

Mr Nkomo said he had believed that alleged harassment suffered by members of his and other parties had been inflicted by lower-ranking ZANU members. But in the light of the prime minister's remarks, "one wonders whether what is happening to people today is not part and parcel of ZANU policy" he added.

Mr Nkomo alleged that government jobs were being given in priority to ZANU members and that the makeup of the civil service does not represent the composition of this country.

While Mr Nkomo did not openly threaten to pull his party out of the coalition -- a move that could reignite tribal and political explosions -- he said the PF had had enough of insults being flung at us.

ZANU says to us we can govern without you. Well, we don't want to cling on if people don't want to work with us, he said, asking at another point, "are we wasting our time trying to work together?"